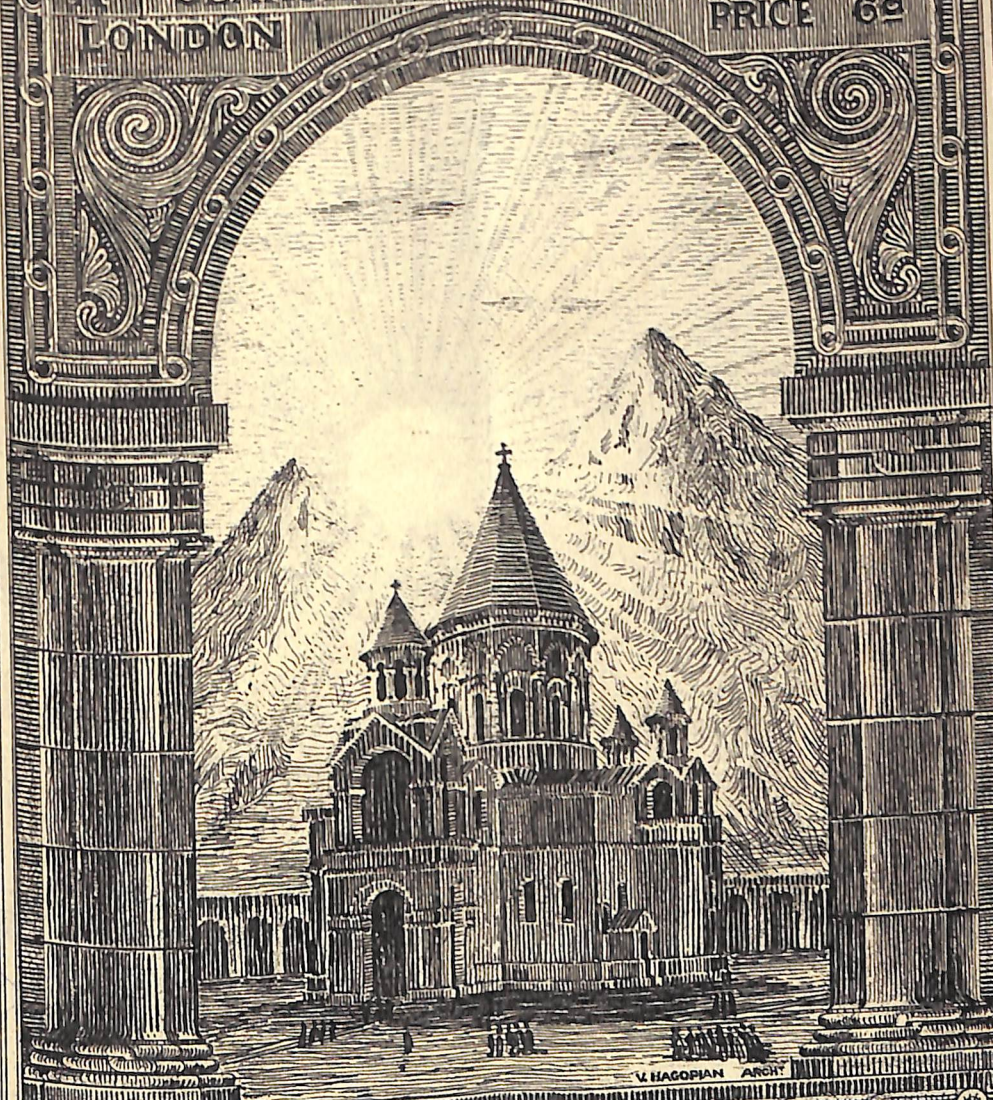


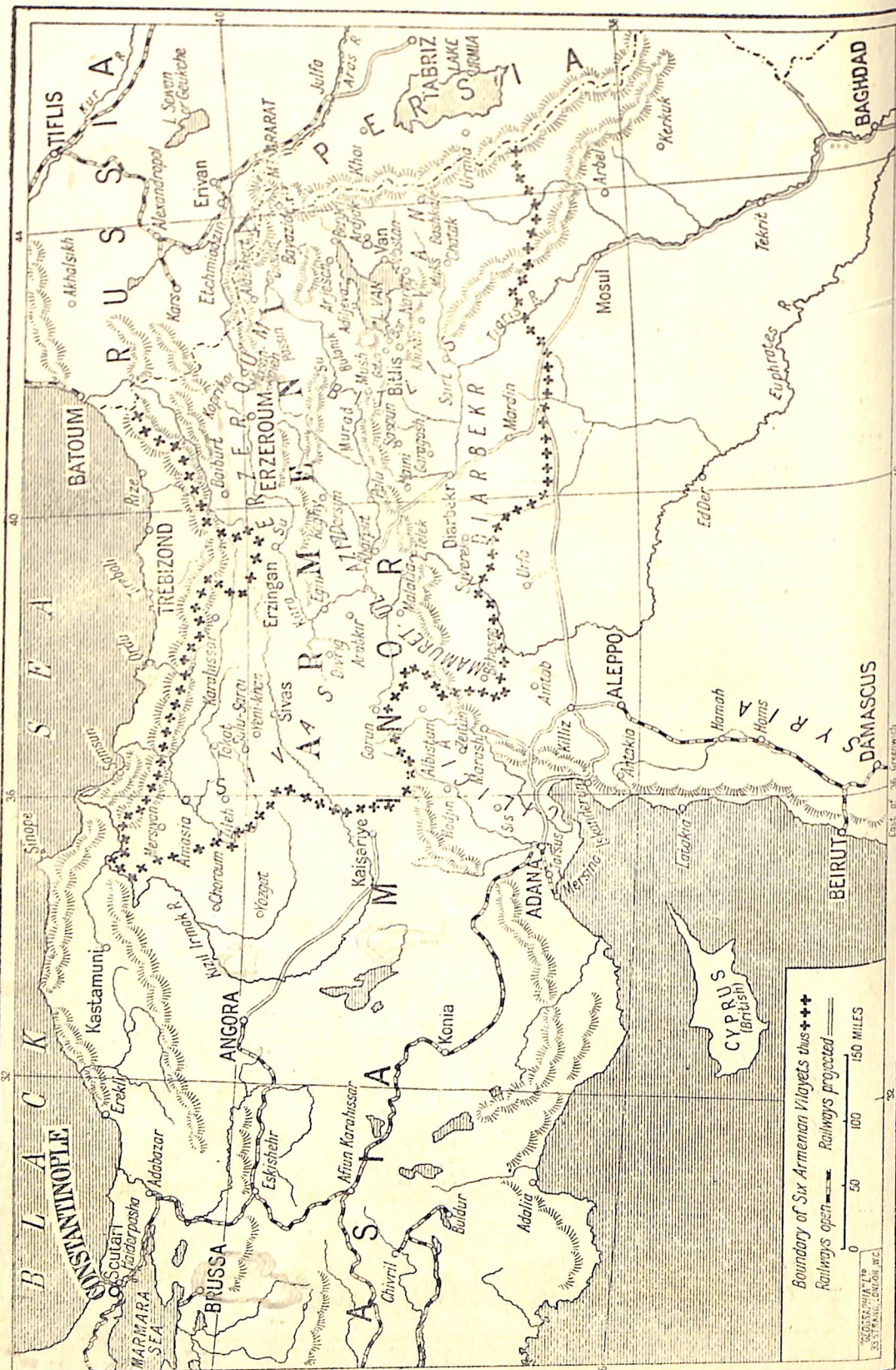
ARARAT

A SEARCHLIGHT ON ARMENIA
LONDON PRICE 6d



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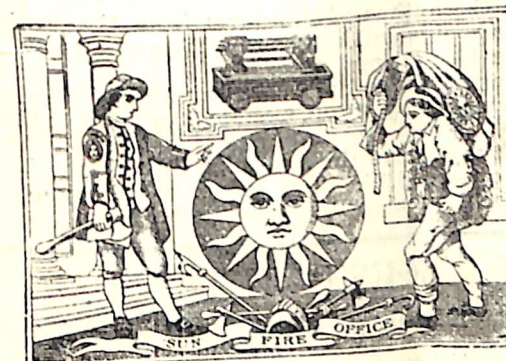
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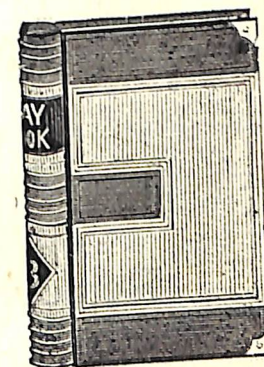
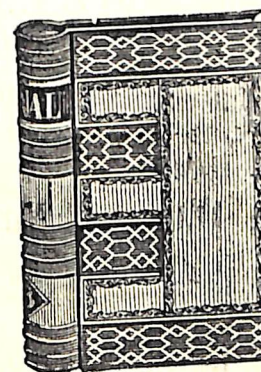
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ARARAT.

A SEARCHLIGHT ON ARMENIA.

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All communications affecting this periodical should be addressed to the Editor, "Ararat," The Armenian United Association of London, 47a, Redcliffe Square, London, S.W.

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Current Notes

The stupendous conflict that has been raging about the French fortress of Verdun for the past month has rivetted the attention of the world, and especially of the belligerent Powers, to this one spot on the Western front. Whether it is the last, or gambler's stake of the German high command, we know for certain that their repeated and tremendous attempts to push the French back have been baffled, and these desperate endeavours have but produced a holocaust of their own dead and wounded, which has been computed by competent authorities at close on a quarter of a million of fighting men. Such is the present-day outcome of highly scientific warfare at which the ordinary looker-on stands aghast in bewilderment and awe. On the other hand, it is gratifying to know of the confidence felt by the French generals to hold back the most diabolical onslaught that has yet been delivered by the enemy in this war, and we admire and honour their skill and their resources in what may after all be a crucial point in the struggle as showing the Central Powers that the lee-way of the Allies in munitions and preparedness has been made good. The Germans are beginning to understand that the best found army the world has ever known may be brought to bay, and that it is not always brute force that points the road to victory. Whether the fighting round Verdun has dwindled into final quiescence or not, our gratitude goes out to the French for their magnificent work of the past four weeks, which will ever stand out in history as a monument of dauntless courage and perseverance born of a sense of justice and right—a truly heroic work, which has to its credit as having brought about one at least of the few colossal failures of German aims in this war.

We have to record equally gratifying results in the Eastern and Asiatic theatres of the war. In the Galician side and even further to the north the Russians are beginning to push the enemy back, but definite details are still lacking. With the fall of Erzeroum and the progress of the Russian army in Armenia, we predicted last month that the Turkish forces from the Black Sea to Baghdad would find themselves in a precarious predicament, and that they would be knocked out of any further serious participation in the war. Circumstances are surely tending in that direction. The Grand Duke's army is still, though slowly, making a sweep of Armenia. Early in the month the left wing of the Caucasian army took Bitlis by storm after struggling through difficult country rendered almost impassable by severe frosts and deep snow. Bitlis commands the road which descends into the plains of Mesopotamia, and it also unfolds a horrible tale of Armenian persecution and massacre. We should next hear of this wing somewhere in the direction of Kharput and Diarbekir. In the Black Sea region, Trebizond is menaced by land and sea, and its fall

should not be long delayed. In the centre, pressing on from Erzeroum, the Russians have advanced towards Erzincan, an important town on the Trebizond road, and have already reached and captured Mamakhatun, half way to that place. It is an effective sweep from north to south of Asia Minor, and it should mean the cutting of the Baghdad Railway before many weeks have passed; nor do we think there will be much opposition, after the Russians have got astride of that Railway, to their pressing on and reaching the sea at Alexandretta.

And then again the Russian forces show a notable advance in Persia. The occupation of Kermanshah was followed by an advance to Kirind, at the top of the pass 5,000 feet high, whence a rough mountain road descends to Khanikin, the border town; and from that point to the Mesopotamian plain there would be no severe obstacles to the marching powers of the Russians. For all we know, the latter may be well on their way, and it would be no surprise to us to hear that they have joined hands with the British Mesopotamian force and been instrumental in relieving General Townshend's gallant and beleagured force at Kut-el-Amara. Such a meeting of Russian Cossacks and Indian soldiers for the purpose of crushing a common foe, and that the Turk, would be a historic event after the antagonism and suspicion that has existed for the past half a century as to Russian designs on both Turkey and India. To us it will be a harbinger of mutual and lasting friendship that will assuredly be born of the pregnant future. As we go to press we hear of the occupation of Ispahan, Persia's old capital, by the Russians, which the Germans had made a hot-bed of intrigue with lawless tribesmen in this direction against the Allies.

There is a puzzle game recently invented at Constantinople, which has been going the round of the newspapers of the civilised world, the puzzle being to find Enver Pasha, the Turkish War Minister. This elusive individual was first said to have been wounded, and then assassinated. He next appears on a voyage of inspection to Syria, Palestine and Arabia, his tour extending to the sacred cities of Mecca and Medina; and we are told what progress in the construction of roads and the supply of motor-cars had been made under his eagle eye, doubtless with a view to creating a scare for the sleepy British forces in Egypt, against whom these motor-cars filled with Enver's troops were to make a sudden raid along these newly-constructed roads. We are also told that his visit to Mecca and Medina meant more than meets the eye. He is a candidate for the Caliphate—did he not quietly and mercifully put out of his way the lawful heir to the present Sultan?—and his visit to the Holy Places of Islam was made so that he should be invested to this end with the lawful

authority of the religious powers that be of the Moslems. And finally comes the news that there is no mystery at all about Enver. The simple truth, we are told, is that immediately after the fall of Erzeroum, he hurried to Angora to re-organise the Turkish forces on the Armenian front. As there was only a single telegraph wire between Angora and Constantinople, and some busybody had cut that wire, no messages had been received for some time, and nothing had been heard of Enver. The report is not lacking that he has also been seen at Constantinople. So after all the mystery remains. Puzzle—find Enver Pasha!

It was a memorable day for Russia when, on February 22nd, at the reopening of the Imperial Duma, the Czar attended unexpectedly in person amidst demonstrations of loyalty from the representatives of his people which exceeded anything of the kind that had ever been known. We leave our readers to study the stirring and enthusiastic speeches delivered on that day; here we will merely reproduce the passage from the speech of M. Rodzianko, the President of the Duma, which refers to the fall of Erzeroum:—

“We have assembled here to-day amid joyous triumphant shouts:—Erzeroum has fallen—the stronghold of our foe. Under the onslaught—unexampled for valour and endurance—of our gallant troops, with co-operation of the Fleet, the enemy has sustained a decisive blow, and this legendary exploit of the glorious Russian Army, of which all Russia is rightly proud, shows to all what our fearless soldiers can accomplish in the hands of resolute leaders. I propose that we should send to his Majesty the Emperor, Generalissimo of our valiant troops, our most loyal congratulations, ardent greetings to the valiant fellow-champions; and our homage to the heroic Caucasian Army and Black Sea Fleet. (‘Hear, hear,’ and vociferous applause.) May this bold and brilliant deed be a happy harbinger of a bright near future and open fresh pages of successful military operations and victories in all our fields of battle! The success attained on the Caucasian front during these days is great and noteworthy, but none the less Russia, as before, is still confronted by the task of expelling the foe from the lands which he has occupied, of smashing him completely, of repelling all efforts at our enslavement, and thereby winning for ourselves the right to a long and peaceful life as free citizens, together with prosperity for our country under the mighty dominion of the Russian Czar.”

The condition of the refugees in the Caucasus continues to give cause for anxiety, though improvement in organisation is having its effect; but money is needed in much larger sums than our separate Funds here are receiving; and our telegrams also indicate the necessity

of satisfying the imperative wants of those refugees who are returning to the parts of Turkish Armenia which are being occupied by the Russian forces, so as to enable these unfortunate people to rebuild their homes and sow their spring crops. Fuller details under this latter head are set forth in subsequent pages of this issue. We give here the various telegrams received direct from the Caucasus by ourselves and by the Lord Mayor's Armenian Fund.

Our own correspondent telegraphs :—

"Occupation Turkish Armenia proceeds successfully. Before starting for Erzeroum, must request your Funds to consider urgent necessity repatriating refugees in their ruined homes within limits of possibility. To enable destitute refugees recommencing fresh life, funds should be reserved for buying cattle, seed-corn, agricultural implements. Unless spring sowings are begun immediately, famine on far larger scale will unavoidably follow."

The following telegram has been received by the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Lord Mayor's Fund, and comes from M. Arakelian, Editor of *Mschak*, of Tiflis :—

"Armenian refugees are returning home—immediate help needed for re-establishment. The Armenian Restoration Committee, specially formed for this purpose from among prominent Armenians under ægis of Catholicos, and recognised officially by Russian military authorities, asks your material and moral help. Address Lord Mayor, Tiflis, or *Redaction Mschak*."

From the same source we get the following telegram received from M. Samson Aroutiniantz, President of the Central Armenian War Victims' Relief Committee :—

"Thanks to your Fund for doctor and drugs. Latest information from Mush, Bitlis and Erzeroum neighbourhood shows wide-spread disease and mortality among survivors there and absolute lack of any medical help. To urgent needs for food and clothing now have to be added measures for repatriating refugees in territories already occupied; to supply them with means to cultivate and sow land, rebuild homes and provide necessities until the gathering of the harvest, thus avoiding famine next winter. Our heartfelt gratitude for your support."

Information derived from the British Consul at Batoum has also been placed by the Foreign Office at the disposal of the Chairman of the Lord Mayor's Fund, from which we take the following short abstract :—Great need for help still exists both for the refugees in the Caucasus and for those survivors found in parts of Armenia recently occupied by Russian troops. At the capture of Erzeroum

a large number of Armenians were discovered, and their needs were so urgent that General Tamamsheff asked for the transfer of two railway waggons of clothing from Kars to Erzeroum by cart. Bishop Mesrope, at Tiflis, had received news from an Armenian battalion at Khinis that a thousand refugees, mostly women and children, had flocked there. Batches of refugees still continue to arrive at Sarikamish from various directions. The Russian Government is also assisting with money grants.

The Armenian Relief Funds in London are showing their barometric tendency to rise and fall in direct response to the pressure exercised by the call for contributions—the present is a period of heavy fall. The Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, which showed a total collection last month of about £40,000 against £27,000 of the previous month, has now reached about £43,000, or an increase of only £3,000 against an increase of £13,000 in the previous month. Similarly, our own Fund, the Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund, has failed to add anything substantial to its existing total collection of over £16,000. The Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund stands now with a total collection of nearly £5,900. The entire collections of the three Funds stand close at £64,900, against £61,000 of a month ago. Of this amount, the sum of nearly £59,000 has been utilised for relief purposes. The Lord Mayor's Fund has, as already announced last month, sent an Armenian doctor to the Caucasus, who has reached his destination. The Fund is now arranging that a party of three English nurses and an English doctor should follow and meet the urgent calls that have been made from the refugee hospitals for such assistance. When the party is completed, they will go under the leadership of the Rev. Harold Buxton, the Hon. Secretary of the Fund, and it is expected that their departure will take place somewhere about the first week in April. Mr. Buxton will report to the Executive Committee in London the actual conditions existing, the manner in which the funds sent out are being expended, and any special circumstances that may strike him as requiring attention towards a better utilisation of the British funds. Mr. Buxton will be accompanied by two other gentlemen as assistant helpers. The consignment of drugs the Fund was sending to the Caucasus left for its destination on March 25th.

Early in March the representatives of about 24 War Relief Societies met under the presidency of His Grace the Duke of Norfolk to discuss the advisability of asking the Government to limit appeals to public benevolence to such Societies only as obtain a licence from the Home Secretary. It was pointed out that about 30 millions of pounds sterling had been so collected, and in this gigantic task there

had been overlapping, and mismanagement, while there was nothing to prevent even an ex-convict from issuing an appeal for funds, a substantial proportion of which he might allocate to himself as salary. It was proposed that all Funds started since August 4th, 1914, should be licensed by the Government and duly audited balance-sheets of their accounts published at proper intervals. On March 3rd the Duke of Norfolk introduced a deputation of representatives of War Relief Funds which was received by the Home Secretary. After some discussion, in which the Commissioner of the London Police also joined, the Home Secretary said that he recognised the strength of the case put forward, and that he would give careful consideration to all the suggestions which had been made. The Armenian (Lord Mayor's) Fund was represented by Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., the Chairman, and Lieut.-Colonel G. M. Gregory, Hon. Treasurer; the latter also represented the Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund.

We had all the confirmation we needed of the horrible details of the recent Armenian massacres, but here we are furnished from Zurich, through the *Central News Agency*, with authentic details from German sources, which we place before our readers:—

The *Allgemeine Missions Zeitschrift*, the official review of the German Protestant missions, publishes stories related by German witnesses of the horrors of the Armenian massacres, together with details furnished by Turkish soldiers who took part in the slaughtering "under the orders of their superiors."

In this German account the worst details that have been published regarding last year's horrible massacres of Armenians are fully verified, if, indeed, they are not surpassed. The German witnesses tell of women and children being tied together in bundles and thrown into the sea from rocks after the women had been violated; children knocked on the head because they could not keep up with the march, and of 3,000 women and children being taken into the desert and slaughtered.

"And why," asked a German missionary, "did you not kill them in their own villages?" "Because they must be made to suffer first," was the reply. "And, besides, what would we do with the corpses? They would rot."

The German missionary review also tells of 600 women and children being embarked in boats on the Tigris, conducted by fifty gendarmes, who had orders to see that they did not reach their ostensible—or any other earthly—destination. All were thrown into the river, which for days afterwards ran corpses until these were eaten by the dogs and vultures.

These are not Armenian inventions or exaggerations, but the authentic witnessings of German missionaries and Turkish officers, published in a responsible German periodical.

It gives us great pleasure in drawing attention, elsewhere in our present issue, to the record of the generous response made by the European, Armenian and Chinese citizens of the town of Sourabaya in the Dutch colony of Java to the appeal of our compatriot there, on behalf of our unfortunate refugees in the Caucasus.

The Dutch, as everyone knows, have always stood in the forefront of nations as champions of liberty and antagonists of oppression and tyranny. True to these high ideals, they have ever extended a hospitable reception to those of our compatriots who have sought refuge and free scope for their activities, either in Holland or her colonies. They have always treated Armenians on a footing of equality with other Europeans, and when they have adopted Dutch nationality, they have been given equal rights to those of Dutchmen themselves, without any qualification whatsoever. All the Government services have been, and are, open to them, and Armenians have held, and hold, many important positions in these, specially in the Legal and Civil Services. But it is chiefly as merchants, planters and manufacturers that they have made their mark. Though comparatively small in number, the Armenian communities in the Dutch colonies have, since the earliest days of their settlement in the country, always played a part in our national life out of all proportion to their numerical strength. The education of our youth in particular has enjoyed their generous and sustained support. In all cases of national calamity, as the present, they have done their duty as enlightened men and good loyal Armenians and Christians. They deserve full credit for these services to the nation. It must not be forgotten, however, that their ability to render such services is in a large measure due to the liberties and opportunities they have enjoyed under the benign and liberal rule of the Dutch, to whom we owe unbounded gratitude.

During February a remarkable address was delivered by Mgr. Touchet, the Bishop of Orleans, at the Madeleine in Paris, at the request of *L'Œuvre d'Orient*, and in the presence of Cardinal Amette, Archbishop of Paris. Long before the ceremony began the vast church was filled to overflowing to hear the eloquent orator dilate on the Armenian massacres, and his words were such as to stir the emotions of the immense crowd that had gathered to hear him. Taking the precaution to impress on his hearers that he would strictly eschew all exaggeration, the Bishop proceeded to make a short historical résumé of events commencing with the revolution of 1908, when power came into the hands of the Young Turks. Then it was that France was persuaded that the persecution of Christians, which had so stained the rule of Abdul Hamid, would cease; and did not the Armenians too have a similar feeling, and whole-heartedly aided the

Turks in their new resolve? But alas! these Young Turks have surpassed even Abdul Hamid, and placed massacres to their credit which may be reckoned at a million souls!

In November, 1914, when the Entente declared war on Turkey, then commenced the most horrible of tragedies, said Mgr. Touchet, and he cited only a couple of well authenticated cases where thousands of men and women had been done to death. "I would like to see," cried the Bishop, "Europe, that wept over *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, think over these outrages—but, my God! eight centuries ago they would have had a Crusade for far less than this!" The impassioned orator then dwelt on German complicity, which he proved up to the hilt, and in a stirring peroration he implored the diplomats, when the hour of victory came, to finally free the Armenian nation from the Turkish yoke. "Otherwise," said he, "those that remain of this unfortunate people will become anarchists, and if by bombs they were to destroy Constantinople, I do not fear, I, a bishop, standing before the altar of Christ, to declare that their action would not only be legitimate, but even sanctified." These are strong, nay, remarkable words coming from an ecclesiastical dignitary in the pulpit of a famous church in Paris, and we applaud him for fearlessly giving expression to the truth. In his closing words the Bishop implored his hearers to be generous to the fugitives in their terrible plight, and said that Paris—France—should not forget the sentiments always expressed by Armenians towards that country, and that now there was a blood-tie between the two countries that were fighting a common enemy. May the Bishop's words sink far and deep into the hearts of a vaster congregation the wide world over.

When Lord Bryce was in Paris towards the end of February, the Armenian colony there did not leave him alone, but he was the recipient of an address which was presented to him on their behalf through their spokesman, M. Archag Tchobanian. It was with supreme gratitude that they approached the *doyen* of the friends and defenders of Armenia in Europe, and expressed to him all there was in their hearts, a miniature nation, a colony collected there which held representatives of all classes and all parties. "May your illustrious name ever continue to shed its lustre into the Armenian soul, as that lamp of the Illuminator which the Armenian peasants believe they see on the summit of Ararat, and which rouses up in their hearts both courage and hope." Lord Bryce, ever happy in his response, brought out the characteristics of Armenians, their industry, love of learning, talents and perseverance, their spirit that knows not despair, their love of traditions, their self-sacrifice and their sense of religion. Boghos Nubar Pasha also spoke.

And we have to look to Paris for yet more. *Hommage à l'Arménie* is a head-line to a circular notice issued by the French people which raises in us feelings of deep emotion and profound gratitude. The object of this circular is to call together a great gathering of notabilities of the artistic and intellectual world, under distinguished management, on Sunday, April 9th, in the great amphitheatre of the Sorbonne, to hear and talk of Armenia and her culture. Among those who have promised to speak are M. Paul Deschanel, President of the Chamber of Deputies, M. Paul Painlevé, Minister of Public Instruction, M. Anatole France, and M. Paul Adam. Armenian songs will be sung by Armenian singers and the choirs of the *Schola Cantorum* under the direction of M. Vincent d'Indy. A strong Committee of well-known Parisian names intends to keep this *Comité de Propagande en Faveur des Arméniens* as a new and permanent branch of the *Amitiés Franco-Etrangères*.

The *Bulletin* of Glasgow gives a picture of an Armenian student being "chaired" by his fellow British students, every one of whom bears on his beaming countenance the smile of intense satisfaction. The hero of this photograph is one Apcar Galustian, of St. Mungo's College, Glasgow, who carried off First Honours by obtaining the *dux* prize in senior anatomy, the medal for physiology, and the President's prize for the best man in anatomy. With such a start at the threshold of his medical career, we wish Mr. Galustian all the success he deserves for the future in that glorious profession now lying before him.

It is with deep sorrow that we chronicle the death in Calcutta, on February 1st, of Mr. Arratoon Gregory Apcar, at the ripe old age of 89. A merchant prince in the City of Palaces, where he and members of his family amassed their wealth within the last hundred years, his striking personality has been prominently before the public of Calcutta so far as the memories of those still living can stretch back. Of genial temperament and kindly to the extreme, he loved to use his wealth for the welfare of his nation particularly, and of other nations as well. Works of charity and of public utility came to him in the ordinary day's duties, and Calcutta and Julfa (Ispahan) will bear testimony to his lavish and unostentatious acts, which will be gratefully remembered by future generations. The Armenian College in Calcutta particularly owes him much. Of him it can truly be said that he used his wealth to good purpose.

Russia and Armenia.

The Orange Book.

(Continued from page 298.)

XI.

Document No. 148 contains M. Kulkevitch's letter to M. Sazonoff on the history of the Armenian Reforms, which runs as follows :—

As I had the honour of informing your Excellency by a telegram, dated Jan. 26th, 1914, the Grand Vizier and myself have approved of a document by which the Turkish Government has to appeal to the Powers requesting them to appoint two Inspectors-General for the two sectors of Eastern Anatolia. By this document all the preliminary plans have been made for instituting reforms in Armenia in accordance with the project of May 24th, 1913, which was proposed by the Powers. This document has certainly a great historical significance.

The duty of instituting reforms in Armenia was imposed upon the Sublime Porte for the first time by the 16th article of the Treaty of San Stefano in 1878 and the 61st article of the Treaty of Berlin, under neither of which, as we know, has the duty been carried out by Turkey. It is true that the demands of Russia, England and France forced Sultan Abdul Hamid to publish a decree on Oct. 20th, 1895, regarding the reforms in Armenia, but that decree remained a dead letter; and at the present moment the poor Christian races of Armenia are under continuous suffering from the cruelty of the Turkish officials and the tyranny of the Kurds, who, without being under any restrictions, interfere with the lives, honour and property of the peaceful inhabitants of the country.

Recognising the imperative need of reforms in Armenia by the Turkish Government, the Imperial Government (Russia) presented to the Powers a scheme of reforms based on the general principles of that proposed by the ambassadors of England and France in 1895. That scheme, which embodied all the desires of the Armenians, proposed the formation of an Armenian Province, to be governed by a Governor-General, elected by the Sultan, with the consent of the Powers, who was to be given full power to exercise his authority; and the formation of district Assemblies where Musulman and non-Musulman would be represented by equal numbers. The same principle of equality was to be applied in other departments, such as the police force and gendarmerie; there were also to be equal rights for local languages, the removal of the Kurdish Hamidiéh Regiments, freedom towards

the forming of schedules for schools in accordance with the needs of different localities: the returning of all the land belonging to the Armenians which had been taken from them unlawfully.

The Russian project of reforms which was examined by the Ambassadors in July, 1913, at Eni-Koi, met with opposition from the representatives of the Triple Alliance, who proposed to adopt the Turkish project of reforms as outlined in the document of July 1st, 1913, which was prepared under the influence of Berlin. According to this document, Turkish Armenia was to be divided into two sectors, each governed by a foreign inspector, elected by the Sultan without the consent of the Powers, the present system of Government was to be preserved in the vilayets, and the inspectors were merely to exercise supervision over the Government and to have the right of dismissing officers. The Ambassador of the Imperial Government, of course, could not accept the above proposition, and insisted that the commission of the Delegates at Eni-Koi should examine the Russian project. But unfortunately the result of this examination was that the Ambassadors agreed in only a few of these questions, namely, the equal rights of schools, the question of land and languages. But as to the principal points—the formation of an Armenian Province, the appointment of a Governor-General by the consent of the Powers, the formation of district assemblies and the adoption of the principle of equality in assemblies and offices—the representatives of the Triple Alliance adopted an obstructive attitude towards the Russian project. This was more especially in the case of the representative of Germany, who took up the attitude of a protector of Turkish rights. Should the records of the Eni-Koi commission be published some day, the Armenians will then be able to judge of the German attitude towards them, those Germans who, at the same time, were trying to win them by false promises.

This being the result of the Eni-Koi commission, the Ambassador of the Imperial Government considered it necessary to safeguard the realisation of Armenian reforms with the Ambassadors of the Triple Alliance, and especially entered into negotiations with the German Ambassador in order to get his assistance in presenting to the Sublime Porte the project of reforms, which though not as broad as the former project, was still sufficient to satisfy the temporary needs of the Armenians of Anatolia. The result of M. de Giers's communications with M. Wangenheim was the scheme of September, 1913, embodying six points. This scheme recognised the division of Anatolia into two sectors, and proposed that the election of Inspectors-General by the Sublime Porte should be by his appeal to the Powers for their recommendation. It gave the Inspectors-General the right of dismissing any of the officials, of appointing inferior officials, and of introducing candidates for the posts held by high officials and judges; of instituting an elective assembly in each of those sectors, composed of half Musul-

mans and half Christians : and of applying the same principle of equality in the distribution of all offices in both sectors. It also gave the Powers the right of exercising control over the application of the reforms through their Ambassadors in Constantinople and their consuls on the spot.

This Russo-German project, which was approved by the other Powers, was presented to the Sublime Porte by the Ambassador of the Imperial Government, and this gave rise to the long negotiations on Armenian Reforms with Turkey, which were carried out entirely through the Russian Government.

After the written declaration of Turkey's intention of Oct. 12th of instituting reforms through the moral and financial assistance of the Powers, the Sublime Porte tried to evade the condition that the election of Inspectors-General was to be through the recommendation of the Powers. To this end the Grand Vizier, in a conversation with the Ambassador of the Imperial Government, proposed to create the office of Foreign Advisers for *Turkish Inspectors-General*, the latter holding full authority. The Turkish scheme of October 25th, 1913, regarding the Foreign Advisers did not satisfy the necessary conditions; as it did not give the Advisers any authority. For this reason the Ambassador of the Imperial Government, after a long communication with the Grand Vizier, subjected this scheme to a radical modification, adding to it a number of new articles whereby the full authority of the Advisers was safeguarded. The scheme of recommendation regarding the Advisers was again presented to Said Halim Pacha on Nov. 9/22, 1913, by M. de Giers. This scheme, besides the question of the co-operation between the Governors-General and the Advisers and the settling of disputes between them, contained decisions as to the principle of equality in offices, commissions, the rights of languages, recruiting, schools, judicial matters, and in questions of land.

The Turkish Ministerial Council saw that their plan of evading reforms, by establishing a body of Advisers, had failed, because it led to the proposition of a new scheme which was even more unfavourable to them than the Russo-German project had been ; so they decided to reject it altogether. Consequently, on Dec. 12th, the Grand Vizier protested against them for the first time to the Ambassadors of Russia and Germany stating that the means for settling disputes between the Inspectors-General and the Advisers did not seem right, as the judgment of the latter would always prevail. When the Ambassadors pointed out to him that it was possible to re-consider the original proposition regarding the appointment of European Inspectors-General, Said Halim Pacha accepted the proposition.

On Dec. 16th the Grand Vizier proposed to the Ambassador of the Imperial Government the following means for electing the Inspectors-General. The Grand Vizier would officially and verbally

apply to the representatives of the Powers, requesting them to recommend the names of some candidates ; he would then communicate to them the limits of the powers which would be assigned to those persons. This proposal led to prolonged discussions between the Ambassador of the Imperial Government and the Grand Vizier, in which M. de Giers tried to include in the new project the general principles of the reforms, while the Ministerial Council tried to limit the project to the nomination of the Inspectors-General and to giving them partial authority. On Dec. 28th the Grand Vizier presented to the ambassadors the text of this authority, and M. de Giers presented to Said Halim the plan of the note, concerning the appointment of the Inspectors-General, which would be sent by the Sublime Porte to the Powers. The negotiations between the Ambassador and the Grand Vizier continued until the day of M. de Giers' departure, Jan. 5th, 1914, when by mutual concession all points were agreed upon except three, concerning schools, the principle of equality between the Musulmans and non-Musulmans in the police force and gendarmerie, and on the subject of the composition of the General and Administrative Provincial Councils.

For the first two questions it was possible to find some formula which would satisfy both the Armenians and the Turks. As to the question of the composition of the councils it was the personal and enthusiastic assistance of your Excellency which moved the Sublime Porte to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion.

(To be continued.)

The Situation in Armenia.

The Russian advance.—The fall of Erzeroum, Mush and Bitlis liberates about half of Armenia from the Turkish yoke, and we anxiously wait for the day when the other half, the vilayets of Kharpout, Diarbekir and Sivas will also fall into the hands of the valiant Russians. But in writing of Armenia our thoughts also go to Armenians, and the question which still remains unsolved is how many Armenians have been saved. We are afraid that the number is not large. All the Armenian population of the above six vilayets, with the addition of the vilayet of Trebizond, for which the Powers claimed and finally succeeded in obtaining a scheme of promised reforms have been mostly massacred or deported ; and we are still waiting in suspense to hear of the few survivors of these vilayets. But things move slowly in Turkey, and it will be some time before news can reach us from reliable sources. So far only a few telegrams from the Russian Army have reached the Armenian committees in Tiflis, to the effect that only a

few Armenians (some say 34) have been found in Erzeroum. The Armenian relief committees have organised special relief parties to send aid to the conquered districts.

The Turkish "White Book."—The Turkish Government has published a "white book" in which it admits the massacres and deportations of its Armenian subjects, but the cause of their action is attributed to the revolutionary movements of the Armenians at the instigation of England, France and Russia. In this book the Turkish Government describes in detail the so-called revolutionary movements at the time of the first Russian advance, and how they betrayed the Turkish army; and it was after this that, as a last resource, they were obliged to deport the Armenians. The book states: "It is true that during the deportation from one station to another regrettable events have taken place, but who can throw stones at Turkey at such a time, when she was fighting for her very existence. The Armenian enmities and rebellious acts had reached their zenith, so that the Moslem population of the country was furious with rage and took the law into their own hands and paid the traitors back in their own coin." It is further stated that they were unable to check the fury of the mob, as they were waging war on four fronts. At the same time they claim to have instructed the gendarmes to protect the deported Armenians, and in carrying out their duty some of them had even lost their lives. The Turks also claim to have made laws for protecting the property of the Armenians and to have appointed conscientious men to enforce these laws. They have also formed committees to investigate the causes of the cruelties inflicted upon the deported refugees and to punish those found guilty.

This reminds us of the story of the wolf and the lamb. How the wolf devoured the lamb, as it had muddied the water the wolf was drinking, in spite of the fact that the lamb was at the foot of the stream, while the wolf was drinking at its source. And these pretexts will certainly satisfy some of their worthy Allies, at least for the present. But those who have known the bloody Turk with his drawn scimitar, who have heard the boastings of Talaat Bey and Enver Pasha, who have definite knowledge of their murderous plans and have witnessed the carrying out of these plans fearlessly, persistently and remorselessly, will attach due weight to a "White Book" of this kind, which denies everything and makes the red Turk as white as snow.

We give below some further documents relating to these deportations or changes of residence (as the Turks call it) under the protection of kindly Turkish gendarmes.

Events in the district of Mush.—The following reports concerning the massacres and deportations in the region of Mush and Sassoun have come to hand from altogether different sources, yet it is remarkable to note how they confirm one another.

The massacres of Mush began on June 28th (O.S.), Sunday morning, and lasted until Monday night. They were organised by the Governors of Van and Bitlis and carried out in the presence of their representatives, among whom were Abdoullah Bey of Sipuk, Topal Iprahim of Mush (tax-collector), Hassan (tax collector), and the Police Hakim. Before the massacres, all the prominent Armenians underwent indescribable sufferings. They were flogged and their limbs twisted until their thumbs began to bleed. The day the peasants were arrested they wished to take Holy Communion first, but were refused. The monks of Saint Garabed and the prominent Armenians of the villages of Gvars, Sortra and Pazou were assassinated in the monastery. The perpetrators opened the tomb of Bishop Nerses Kharakhanian, with the hope of finding money. They took his shroud and put the body back in the tomb. Mehmed Effendi, the Ottoman deputy of Genjé, collected about 40 women and children and killed them. Two hundred of the inhabitants of Mush were brought to the village of Shekhlán and thrown into the Mourad river. One hundred men from Sassoun, who surrendered, were imprisoned without food or drink. When they begged for bread, the Turkish inhabitants could not stand their wailing, and asked the Government either to give them bread or kill them. They were all killed about the middle of November.

Then the Government looked for the Armenians who had found refuge with some Kurds, and finding about 2,000 of them, massacred them all. It is confirmed that Kegham Der Garabedian, the Ottoman deputy of Mush was hanged. The property of the Armenians of Mush and Bitlis was sold by the Government, and all their sheep and cattle which were left with the Kurds, were requisitioned by the army of Khalil Bey.

According to reports from the Caucasus, the Turks gathered together about 5,000 Armenians by treachery and deception from 20 Armenian villages around the monastery of Saint Garabed at Mush and massacred them. This took place near the wall of the monastery. Before the massacre began a German officer stood on the wall and harangued the Armenians to the effect that the Turkish Government had shown great kindness to, and had honoured the Armenians, but they were not satisfied and wanted autonomy; he then, by the report of a revolver, gave the signal for the general massacre. Among the massacred were two monks, the father superior of Sourp Garabed, Yeghishé Vartabed, who had a chance of escaping but did not wish to be separated from his flock and was killed with them. From the Sahajian district about 4,000 Armenians found refuge in the forests of the monastery, and fought against the attacking Turks and Kurds. They fed themselves on wheat, raw meat without salt, turtle, frogs, etc. Some of them finally surrendered, but no one knows the fate of the remainder. The Monastery of St. Garabed was sacked and robbed.

The Turks opened the tomb of St. Garabed and destroyed everything. They also discovered some secret chambers. Turkish chiefs took up their quarters in the monastery with imprisoned Armenian girls.

According to another report no one was spared in Mush, not even the orphans in the German orphanage. Some of these were killed and others deported. Rev. Krikor and Mr. Marcar Ghougasian, teachers in the German orphanage, were killed, and only two escaped death, the Misses Margarid Nalbandian and Maritza Arisdakesian. These were graduates of the German Seminary of Mezre, and owe their lives to a kind German lady.

According to the reports of some Armenians who had found refuge in the forests of Sourp Garabed and finally made their way to the Caucasus, Hilmi Bey was appointed for the purpose of clearing the Armenian provinces of Armenians. This man reached Erzeroum on May 18th, then went to Khenous, Boulanik, Khlat, etc., massacring every Armenian in these places. According to a letter, dated June 19 (July 1), written to one of these refugees, Hilmi Bey had three army corps (?) with him, a body of gendarmes, and the volunteers of Hadji Moussa Bey and Sheik Hazret, who had come to Mush to massacre the Armenians. To these forces were joined the Turkish mob of Mush, the Turkish refugees of Alashgerd and Badnotz, Keur Husein Pasha and Abdul Medjid Bey. The massacres were directed by Governor Djevdet of Van, Commander Khalil of Dilman, Governor Abdul Khalak of Bitlis, and Governor Servet Bey of Mush. The order for massacre was given on June 28 (July 11). According to Turkish Government statistics 120,000 Armenians were killed in this district.

We read the following thrilling story in "Van-Tosp," written by Vartkes from Dzemak, dated July 25, 1915:—

"To-day I heard a terrible story. All the Armenians who were deported from Mush were either killed or drowned in the Mourad river. Among these were my mother and three sisters with their children. This news was brought to us by a woman who came here at midnight. We thought she was a ghost, as she seemed like one coming from the grave. She had saved her two year old boy.

"She immediately asked for bread. We did not have any, as we lived on grains and meat, but we gave her what we had. After she had had enough we asked her all kinds of questions. She was from the village of Kheiban, and was one of the deported. This is what she told us:—

"The Turks collected all the women and children of the villages of Sordar, Pazou, Hassanova, Salekan and Gvars and after keeping them for five days they brought them to Ziaret.

Here the inhabitants of Meghd, Baghlou, Ourough, Ziaret and Kheiban joined them, and they were all taken towards the bridge of the Mourad river. On the way the families from the villages of Dom, Hergerd, Norag, Aladin, Goms, Khashkhaldoukh, Souloukh, Khorouk, Kartzor, Ghezlaghaj, Komer, Shekhlan, Avazaghpure, Plel and Kurdmeidan joined the party, making altogether a company of 8,000 to 10,000 people.

"All the old women and the weak who were unable to walk were killed. There were about one hundred Kurdish guards over us, and our lives depended on their pleasure. It was a very common thing for them to rape our girls in our presence. Very often they violated eight or ten year old girls, and as a consequence many would be unable to walk and were shot.

"Our company moved on slowly, leaving heaps of corpses behind. Most of us were almost naked. When we passed by a village all the Kurdish men and women would come and rob us as they pleased. When a Kurd fancied a girl, nothing would prevent him from taking her. The babies of those who were carried away were killed in our presence.

"They gave us bread once every other day, though many did not get even that. When all our provisions were gone we gathered wheat from the fields and ate it. Many a mother lost her mind and dropped her baby by the way side.

"Some succeeded in running away, and hid themselves in the fields among the wheat until it was dark. Those who were acquainted with the mountains of that region would thus run away and go back to seek their dear ones. Some went to Sassoun hearing that it had not yet fallen, others were drowned in the Mourad river. I did not attempt to run away, as I had witnessed with my own eyes the assassination of my dear ones. I had a few piastres left, and hoped to live a few days longer.

"We heard on our way from the Kurds that Kurdish *Chétès* (bands of robbers) had collected all the inhabitants of Kurdmeidan and Shekhlan, about 500 women and children, and burnt them by the order of Rachid Effendi, the head of the *Chétès*.

"When we reached the Khozmo Pass, our guards changed their southerly direction and moved toward west, in the direction of the Euphrates. When we reached the boundary of Ginj district our guards were changed, the new ones being more brutal. By this time our number was diminished by half. When we reached the boundary of Jabaghchour we passed through a narrow valley; here our guards ordered us to sit down by the river and take a rest. We were very thankful for this respite, and ran towards the river to get a drink of water.

“After half an hour we saw a crowd of Kurds coming towards us from Jabaghchour. They surrounded us and ordered us to cross the river, and many obeyed. The report of the guns drowned the sounds of wailing and crying. In that panic I took my little boy on my back and jumped into the river. I was a good swimmer and succeeded in reaching the opposite shore of the Euphrates with my precious bundle unnoticed, and hid myself behind some shrubbery.

“By nightfall no one remained alive from our group. The Kurds left in the direction of Jabaghchour. When it became dark I came out from my hiding place to a field in the vicinity and found some wheat, which I ate; then I followed the Euphrates in a northerly direction, and after great difficulty I reached the plain of Mush. I decided to go to the mountains of Sourp Garabed, as I had heard that there were many Armenians there. During the nights my boy was a great comfort to me. I felt that a living being was with me and fear lost its horror. I thank God I have seen the faces of Armenians again.”

“The poor woman ended her story, and our hearts were stricken with sorrow, for we had loved ones among the unfortunate people of her group. After two days her boy died from lack of nourishment, and after five days she was found by a party of searching Kurds and killed.”

News in Brief.—In a letter addressed to Mr. H. Arakelian, the editor of *Mschak*, M. Dermen, the Governor of Van, speaks of his plan for the reconstruction of Armenia and the great assistance given him by the Armenian volunteer militia of Van. And speaking of the Armenian girls and boys in Kurdish homes, he says:—“I have informed the Kurds to bring me all the Armenian orphans in their villages. If they bring them to me within a month they will get from me a pound for each orphan; but if I find afterwards any Armenian in their villages the man who had hid him will be held responsible and the village will be fined 100 pounds for each Armenian boy or girl.”

— *La Tribune de Geneve* reports from trustworthy sources that Janpolad Bey, the head of the secret police at Constantinople, has sent three of his secret agents to Geneva to report to him on the activities of the Armenians in that city, and, if possible, to create obstacles so as to prevent them carrying out their activities, and to be a menace to their personal safety.

— The Armenian orphans at Van have been transferred to Dilijan.

— Dr. Jacob Sargis, an American Methodist missionary doctor, reports that Dr. Shimmum, an American doctor, was arrested by

the Turks in the village of Supurgeh and asked to accept Islam; when he refused, they poured kerosene oil on him and burnt him to death.

— Mr. Morgenthau, the American Ambassador at Constantinople, arrived at New York (via Berlin) on Feb. 23rd. He was met by a special committee who had been sent by the Governor of New York as an honour and a token of appreciation for the good work he has done for the Armenians.

G. H. PAELIAN.

The Reconstruction of Armenia.

We have recently received from the Caucasus various telegrams drawing our attention to the necessity there exists of assisting the Armenian refugees to return to their homes, which have come under Russian authority, and to rebuild them and sow their spring crops.

Such a course, if pursued, naturally assumes that the present Russian occupation gives every hope of the final extinction of Turkish authority in those parts of Armenia. The proposed undertaking can be of no mean dimensions but will assume a colossal scale, and no such scheme of repatriation can be carried through without substantial outside help.

Our Russian compatriots will do their best we know, but their best fell short of what was actually needed for the succour of refugees, and there is no doubt that it will scarcely surmount the still more gigantic task lying before us. Nor do we expect that the entire burden should fall on Armenians in Russia. Such a burden, to be satisfactorily borne, must necessarily fall on the shoulders of Armenians all over the world; and to them is clearly indicated a duty as sacred as any that has fallen to the lot of humanity—to ensure, with material means, that their brethren, who had undertaken the honour of holding on to their beloved fatherland, and who have given their all and their loved ones in their grim struggles against the enemies of humanity, should at least be started afresh to pursue their peaceful avocations in the land of their birth with all the blessings that can be showered on them, “not grudgingly, or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

There will no doubt be many Committees formed and many schemes formulated for carrying through this work in different sectors of Armenia, but so far as Armenians are concerned, they should be careful to support such of them as bear the sanction and authority of His Holiness the Catholicos. In a work of this nature, it is our duty

to look to the head of the nation for guidance, and there is no one better situated than he is to shed light on the direction and the methods to be pursued.

The first of such appeals has come into our hands with a request for publication, and we gladly place it before our readers. It is styled an *Appeal of the Committee for the Rebuilding of Armenia*, but its primary design would seem to be the rehabilitation of the ancient district of Vaspourakan, of which Van is the capital city. The following is the appeal:—

“After the terrible calamity which has befallen our motherland, and especially Vaspourakan, which represents its heart, when a general despair settled on the people and it seemed as if all hope of deliverance and of the future were lost, a group of intellectuals of Vaspourakan, filled with a steadfast desire for the regeneration and the reconstruction of their native land, applied to us to help them by affording facilities to the people for returning to their country in order that they might rebuild their homes. The people of Vaspourakan have built their hopes on Colonel Alfred Dermen, who has been appointed governor of their district by the Russian authorities.

“The Colonel had referred to them and had proposed to form a militia from among the Turkish Armenians, for the purpose of defending the country from brigandage and pillage, and for ensuring order and security. He promised on his side that every necessary assistance would be accorded towards all civilising enterprises. The militia was to be composed for the present of 200 men enrolled under the leadership of Mr. Armenak Yegarian, who had been one of the chief organisers in the self-defence of Van. The Governor promised to supply all arms, but the expenses of the militia's upkeep were to be borne by the natives. In addition to this Armenian militia, the Governor himself had in his entourage one hundred Cossacks. A further promise was made by the Governor to give every kind of assistance to those returning to the country, as well as free gifts of land, as, at the present moment, there is an immense quantity of unappropriated land in the Van circle.

“On the basis of these propositions, some of the leading residents of Van formed a Committee, but as they had themselves lost all their property, they applied to us and asked our moral and material assistance towards forming this militia and rebuilding the homes, and more especially towards securing free lands for Armenian peasants and agriculturists.

“We, the undersigned, having examined these proposals, and having also entered into negotiations with Colonel Dermen, who personally formulated the proposals to us, as he had also laid

them officially before His Holiness the Catholicos, we came to the conclusion that it was a matter of urgency to lend such moral and material assistance as was sought by the people of Vaspourakan. But we considered it essential, before anything should be done, to communicate with the Catholicos by letter and through delegates, and await his approbation and instructions.

“His Holiness the Catholicos replied to us by the *communiqué* No. 1,755 of October 10th, issued from his Chancery to the effect that ‘His Holiness gives his encouragement and takes under his patronage and blessing every effort made by the Armenian intellectuals having for its object the rebuilding and the reorganising of Vaspourakan, and especially of the city of Van, and the protection and improvement of the national and religious Institutions, including monasteries, churches, schools, as well as all historical monuments.’ His Holiness, besides, ‘considers it indispensable that the Armenian people, and in particular all Armenian parties, should work together with one accord for the realisation of the above plan.’ Such, too, is our sincere desire.

“With the above document was also received a communication from the Chancery of the Catholicos to the effect that His Holiness had the pleasure of devoting to this project the sum of 3,000 roubles from the Funds at his disposal, and that he would henceforth make over all contributions received specially for that object.

“This encouragement and blessing of His Holiness, and the objects of the enterprise, led us, the undersigned, to form *The Committee for the Rebuilding of Armenia*, so as to assist Vaspourakan and the Turkish Armenian Intellectuals to rebuild their destroyed homes, and, in general, to help in the sacred task of rebuilding and regenerating the Fatherland.

“Therefore, having in view all these objects, we, the undersigned, have decided to make an appeal to all national responsible bodies and organisations, and all influential and willing individuals, and ask their co-operation and their moral and material aid, conscious that our enterprise is exclusively civilising and constructive.

“Our Committee, absolutely relying on your sympathy with the proposed object, appeals to you and asks you to unite with them and give them your moral and material assistance and your advice, so that we may achieve the great work of rebuilding the Fatherland.

“Urgently needed contributions should be sent direct to the Catholicos of All Armenians, or to the Chairman of the

Committee, M. David Khan Avan Usbashian. Contributions from abroad should be sent to the address of *Redaction Mschak, Tiflis*—for the Van Committee.

Chairman of Committee .. DAVID KHAN AVAN USBASHIAN.

Vice-Chairmen H. ARAKELIAN and Dr. B. NAVASARDIAN.

Treasurer AL. MELIK AZARIAN.

Secretary STEPHEN MALKHASSIANTZ.

Members .. M. ARAMIAN, M. ATAPEKIAN, S. SOULKHANIAN, M. MINASSIAN, H. PSARIANTZ, KH. KHATCHATRIANTZ, AVETIK YEZEKIAN."

Young Armenia Up-to-Date.

Circulating as we do freely in the British Colonies and Dependencies, where Armenians enjoy that personal freedom which they have sorely lacked in their own country, we have always taken a pleasure in giving prominence to whatever concerns these British-educated compatriots of ours; and this month we bring to public notice in our illustration a group of growing youngsters of all ages who are being trained like all British youth in the earliest stages of development towards that discipline and manly vigour which go to make the basis of successful national life. Armenia's sons have in all ages not only been pioneers in trade and commerce, penetrating into the uttermost parts of the world, but they have also shone in the realms of literature, sciences and the arts, keeping pace with the world's progress in these directions so far as the conditions of their environment would permit. Now that Armenia's political future is in the melting-pot, every atom of progress in discipline and the true art of national defence is an asset of which we feel sure future generations will reap the benefit with gratitude; and we know from the deeds our people have performed, small though their numbers were, in the recent battlefields, that the training the young of our nation are undergoing under British handling will surely bring out to the full that latent strength of character and valour which have been rusting so long under the depressing conditions of cruel subjection.

The Troop shown in our illustration is known locally as the 4th Calcutta Troop; it is composed entirely of Armenian boys, and came into existence in November, 1910, when the Scout movement was first started in Calcutta; and ever since its birth it has lost no opportunity of distinguishing itself in the various branches of Scouting.



TROOP OF ARMENIAN BOY SCOUTS, CALCUTTA

The raising of the Troop was accomplished through the efforts of Mr. H. Newman, the then Chief Commissioner for Bengal, with the hearty co-operation of Bishop K. G. Tourian, then a layman and Principal of the Armenian College, who is now in the hands of the Turks. Towards the end of 1912 a new vitality and enthusiasm was infused into the Scouts through the unwearied labours of two able Scout-masters—Dr. G. D. Hope and Mr. F. R. Corson. The magical change which came over the Troop was evidenced in the skill and resourcefulness brought out in the public displays. The badge list now runs into hundreds, and the number of trophies won is unequalled—counting among them the Ballygunge United Cross-Country Race, the Kent Signalling Cup, the Fram Juvenile Cup, the Relay Race Cup, and the Een Gonyama Cup awarded to the best Scout of the year. Indeed, the authority on the subject, Captain Pekenham Walsh, Assistant Commissioner for India, thus wrote of this Troop in his report :—

“ I consider this Troop one of the most interesting I have seen. They are absolutely unique. Their great forte is physical development, while their marching is wonderful. The boys do the work quite ‘ on their own,’ and their chests and muscles are extraordinary for boys of their size.”

Great praise is due to Dr. G. D. Hope, who is taking intense interest and making special efforts to imbue the Scouts with the true spirit of Scout Law. No Scout-master has known the Armenian Scout and entered into his spirit so thoroughly as he, who is loved and honoured by all. His zeal has carried him to the extent of learning to read, write and talk the Armenian language, and, furthermore, he has paid a visit to the sacred Fatherland of his devoted Scouts, who are all longing to be able one day to exhibit the outcome of their superb training in Free Armenia itself. Dr. Hope's present assistants are Mr. A. S. Johannes, a teacher in the College, and Mr. H. A. Antrobus, who spare no efforts and do all in their power to make the Troop as efficient as possible.

During the periodical outings of the Scouts, music has become one of their chief accompaniments, and if the reader will bear in mind that there is no skilled instructor of music with them, he will wonder, as he hears them pass, how skilfully the many Armenian patriotic songs and the National Anthems of the Allied nations are rendered by the mouth-organ, and the flute-and-drum bands. In cases where artificial musical instruments are absent, the ones bestowed by nature are brought into full play ; and as the Scouts march through Calcutta, the roads resound with the thundering echoes of martial and patriotic strains. The one loved best and sung always with the greatest of zest, with its stirring words, is *Ee Zen Haier*—

Depi, depi, depi Haiastan,

Thurrek, Haier, thurrek depi Haiastan—

Armenians! O, ye Armenians! In the name of the thousands of your slaughtered brothers and sisters and innocent babes! Fly! Fly! (to their rescue) if not with your bodies, then let your souls take wing, and your purses!

How grim a reality in these dark days, and how sublime a call!

NOTE.—Those seated in chairs in our illustration, from left to right, are Master Stephen, *Chief Patrol Leader*, Dr. Hope, Mr. Antrobus, Mr. Johannes.

“Droschak” Exposes the “Young Turks.”

It was in our June number of last year that we published a telling protest from the above Armenian paper of Geneva, addressed to Talaat Bey, holding the Turkish Government and the Committee of Union and Progress “morally and judicially responsible for the crimes committed against the Armenian people as well as against the Ottoman Empire.”

We have again received an equally forcible manifesto from the same source, giving an interesting picture of the inner workings of the Turkish mind at the outbreak of war, and exposing the treacherous bait offered to Armenians to foment insurrection among their compatriots in the Caucasus, and with them to fight, for the price offered, on the side of the Turks, their life-long enemies. We give below a translation of this manifesto, and allow the Editor of *Droschak* to tell the tale himself:—

At the session of the German Reichstag on Jan. 11th the president of the political division for Foreign Affairs, M. Von Stumm, in replying to a question asked by the Socialist deputy Liebknecht on the Armenian Question, said:—

“The Chancellor knows that the Porte some time ago, owing to the treachery of our enemies, was obliged to deport the Armenian population of certain districts of the Ottoman Empire and assign to them new places of residence.”

We are able to denounce the veracity of this declaration, and, in fact, there are a number of proofs in the neutral press against this official declaration; for example, in the papers of America, Roumania, as well as those of Bulgaria, before her entering into the war, to say nothing of those of France, Italy, Russia, and above all England.

As to ourselves, among the numerous proofs, we will mention at present the following:—

At the end of last year a prominent German, who came from Constantinople and who has fulfilled many diplomatic missions and who has thoroughly understood the Oriental question, and above all, the Armenian question, and whose name we are not at liberty to mention at the present moment, while passing through Geneva, said: “What is going on now in Armenia was planned by the Young Turks a long time ago. They were only waiting for an opportune moment, and the present horrible war furnished the best opportunity for them. *The Armenian Revolution is merely a pretext. I have proofs, all of which I will publish in due time.*”

Which of these two declarations is true? The official one, announced from the platform of the Reichstag, or that of the honourable German, which he enunciated in our editorial office?

Which of the two is a lie?

For us, as well as for the whole world, there is no doubt that the official declaration is contrary to the truth, and against which rise the cries of protest of the hundred thousand innocent victims—of the children, the young girls and the old. It is against this that the blood of the hundred thousand martyrs cry, and the voice of Armenia, ruined and transformed into a vast cemetery!

* * * * *

One of the leaders of those fighting in Sassoun, named Roupen,* who by his heroism, and in company with 30 fighters and volunteers, has pierced the line of the Turkish troops and Kurdish hordes and has passed from the high summits of Sassoun to Caucasasia, proceeded to Petrograd to explain the situation in Armenia to the heads of the Russian Government, and on his return he presented to the Armenian colony of Moscow the following report, which was published by the Russian papers.

This report, which throws some very important light on the happenings in Armenia, during the year 1915, presents at the same time the actual picture of the events which took place in that country.

At the beginning of the European war, says the reporter, a congress of the *Dashnaksuthiun* party was held in Erzeroum with the object of coming to a definite understanding as to the attitude of the party towards the war.

* Roupen is one of the Armenian Revolutionary leaders. During the regime of Sultan Hamid he led volunteer groups and took an active part in the fights for national self-defence in Armenia. During the Ottoman Constitution he laid down his arms and went to Geneva to devote himself to educational studies. He entered the scientific department of the University to specialise in chemistry, but the duty towards his fatherland called him away much sooner than he expected, and he was obliged to drop his studies uncompleted and return to Armenia. With the outbreak of the revolution he took up arms again and became one of the leaders of the Sassoun fighters.

The Young Turks, having been informed of this congress, made haste to send their representatives to Erzeroum to propose that the party should declare openly their intention of helping and defending Turkey and organising Armenian revolutions in Caucasasia in case of a declaration of war between Russia and Turkey.

According to the plans of the Young Turks, the Armenians were to undertake to form volunteer legions and send them to Caucasasia with Turkish propagandists, with the object of making preliminary preparations for a revolution.

The representatives of the Young Turks had already brought with them 27 propagandists to Erzeroum, who were of Persian, Turkish, Lezgui and Circassian nationality. Their leader was Emir Hechmate—who at that time had formed bands of rebels at Hamadan in Persia. The Turks tried to persuade the Armenians that a revolution in Caucasasia was inevitable, and soon the Tartars, the Georgians, and the mountaineers would revolt, and consequently the Armenians would have to follow them.

They even made the future geographical map of Caucasasia.

The Turks offered the Georgians, with their special mark of generosity, the provinces of Koutais and Tiflis, the region of Batoum, and a part of the province of Trebizond; to the Tartars they gave Choucha, the mountainous regions as far as Vladi-Caucasia, Bacou and a portion of the province of Elisabetpol; to the Armenians, Kars, the province of Erivan, part of Elisabetpol, a fragment of the province of Erzeroum, Van and Bitlis. According to the Young Turks all these groups would have autonomy under the protectorate of Turkey.

The Congress of Erzeroum explicitly refused these propositions, and in turn advised the Young Turks not to be thrown into the vortex of the European conflagration, as it was nothing but a dangerous adventure which would lead Turkey to ruin.

The Young Turks were indignant at this.

"This is treason," cried Boukhar-Eddin-Chakire, one of the delegates from Constantinople; "you are siding with the Russians in such a crisis. You refuse to defend the Government, and you forget that you are enjoying its hospitality."

The Armenians stood firm in their decision.

The Young Turks, before the Russo-Turkish war, again sought the help of the Armenians. They began their negotiations with more modest propositions, and this time with the Armenian representatives of each vilayet.

At Van, the negotiations were carried on by the provincial Governor Taksim-Bey and Nadji-Bey; at Moush by Servete-Bey and Iskhan-Bey—this latter being now among the war prisoners in Russia; at Erzeroum by the same Taksim-Bey and others.

The question of an Armenian revolution in Caucasasia was abandoned. They proposed to make a "small concession"—that they should join in the insurrection of the Tartars in Caucasasia, and this was unquestionably the last resort of the Young Turks.

The Armenians, for the second time, gave the same refusal.

After the declaration of the war the Armenian soldiers presented themselves at their regimental quarters for service, but they refused to form revolutionary bands.

In general, until the end of 1914, the situation was calm in Armenia.

But they took vengeance on the Armenians for the heavy defeat of the Turkish troops. The Turks were specially furious because the Armenians of Caucasasia had formed volunteer legions, which were led by the chiefs of the Armenian revolutionary movement, such as Antranik and others.

It was then that the disarming *en masse* of the Armenian soldiers, gendarmes, and other military persons began. Of these disarmed soldiers they formed groups of one thousand for hard work. They sent them to different districts to make them build bridges, dig trenches and work in fortifications.

At the same time they began wholesale massacres. The first victims fell in Diarbekir, Erzeroum and Bitlis. They massacred in groups the soldiers, women and children both in cities and villages.

At the end of January last the massacres had spread all over Armenia. Turkish atrocities reached to a degree which was incredible. From Armenian villages, they took out all the male population above 12 years of age and shot them before the eyes of their wives and children.

The first Armenian revolutionary movement began in February at Koms, where 70 Turkish gendarmes were sent with orders to massacre all the prominent personages, among whom were Roupen and Goriun. The Armenians, knowing of this decision in advance, attacked these gendarmes and killed them all. They also imprisoned the head of that district, with whom they found the following order written by the Governor of Mush: *Carry out the decision which was given you verbally.*

The same day all the prominent Armenians retired to the mountains, where they also assembled the armed young men of the district of Mush.

The Turks, numbering 2,000, under the command of Mehmed Effendi, took the offensive against the Armenians, but the latter annihilated them.

Thus began the revolution in Armenia.

The Government, seeing that the revolution was extending, began to negotiate with them, promising to stop the disarming of the Armenians, and their deportation, and denouncing the plan of extermination at Sassoun. They formed a Committee of Inquiry, in which Essad Pacha, the *Kaimakam* of Boulaneck, and President of the Military Tribunal of Mush, took part. The Armenians were represented by V. Papazian, an Ottoman Parliamentary Deputy.

The Committee of Inquiry proved that the gendarmes were the cause of the Armeno-Turkish trouble, and the Government promised to put an end to the reprisals.

Talaat-Bey telegraphed from Constantinople that the Armenian representatives should be left in peace.

Quietude was re-established provisionally, but in the month of May the Turks tried to penetrate into Sassoun, and at the same time they began unexpectedly the massacres in Kharput, Erzeroum, and Diarbekir.

The Armenians repulsed the Turks, taking positions around the city of Mush, where a great number of Turkish troops were concentrated at the moment.

Affairs were in this state when, at the end of June, the Turks began the great massacres of Mush. Half of the inhabitants were massacred and the other half deported.

The Armenians did not know that at the time the Russian forces were only about two or three hours' journey from Mush.

The massacres extended over the entire plain of Mush. The Armenians, who had retired to the mountains of Sassoun with their weak forces and a small quantity of ammunition, attacked the Turks in the defiles and valleys of Sassoun, causing them considerable losses. A party of Armenians, who escaped the massacres, pierced the Turkish line and reached Van, which they found already occupied by the Russian force.

The number of the Armenian victims was considerable. In Mush, there were only 200 Armenian survivors out of its 15,000 inhabitants. Of the 59,000 inhabitants of the plain of Mush scarcely 9,000 were saved.

EDITOR OF *Droschak*.

A War Correspondent on Syrian Refugees.

Mr. M. Philips Price is a well-known War Correspondent who has, for the past seven months, represented English and American papers on the Caucasian front. The following memorandum from his pen embodies his own personal observations in a region which has been terribly afflicted, and though he writes mainly for the Syrian inhabitants the fate of the Armenians there, who are comparatively sparse in number, is so interwoven with that of the Syrians, that his suggestions are made to cover both races. The memorandum was very kindly sent to Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Lord Mayor's Armenian Refugee Fund, which is assisting both Armenians and Syrians, and it is to his courtesy that we are indebted for its publication in these pages.

MEMORANDUM

ABOUT ASSYRIAN REFUGEES IN PERSIA.

In October of last year I came to Dilman on the plain of Salmas in North-West Persia. I had been in Urmiah during September and had seen the condition of the Assyrians (mostly Orthodox, Catholic and Protestants) in the low country round that Lake. The American missionaries of Urmiah were doing a great deal, and on the whole the condition of the country was not so very bad. There was housing accommodation and a good deal of corn, and it seemed as if the Americans would keep the situation in hand. But in Salmas there was a very different state of affairs. At the end of September 25,000 mountain Nestorians from the Ikhuma, Bas and Tiare regions, who had been fighting with the Kurds all summer and had had to flee for lack of ammunition, men pouring into the plain led by their Patriarch, Mar Shimmon, began to plant themselves down in the orchards and gardens round the villages. All the villages of the plain were already occupied, and as the winter was just setting in their condition without housing, food and clothing was desperate. I sent a message to Mr. Shipley, the British Consul at Tabriz, telling him of the situation, and he telegraphed to the Archbishop of Canterbury for financial assistance. Meanwhile relief committees were organised under the Russian Consul Akimovitch, the Armenian Bishop Nerses, who lent funds from the Armenians of the Caucasus and an American Missionary from Urmiah, Mr. Macdowal, with funds from America, and they began to organise relief during November and December. The method adopted was to distribute to all the refugees, Armenians and Assyrians alike, a daily allowance of 10 kopecks a day, since increased to 15 kopecks, and to distribute warm quilts and coats from materials purchased in the bazaars of Dilman and Khoy. Some medical detach-

ments of the Russian Red Cross and *Sogus Gorodof* were sent with medical aid to combat typhus and dysentery, which was beginning to and still is taking many toll of the refugees. As regards the medical side of the relief, I am inclined to doubt the possibility of making effective provision under the circumstances. There are not sufficient skilled doctors, and it is impossible to get drugs through from the Caucasus in sufficient quantity to do much good.

I did not observe on my return to Salmas after a journey to Van in November any real improvement in the health of the refugees. Every day 100 or more Assyrians and Armenians were dying in the villages round Dilman, and the same is going on now.

It seems to me and these friends of mine, who have also been there and have seen the conditions, agree with me that it is impossible under the circumstances to combat the disease by medical assistance. The hardy mountaineers from the headwaters of the Great Tab and Tigris can best be helped by giving them the means to resist disease. Once disease has hold of them no half measures of medical relief can help. I am therefore strongly of opinion that if more relief is sent it should take the form of money which should go to increase the daily allowances of the refugees, enabling them to buy for themselves from the Persians of Dilman, food and clothing, which alone will enable them to resist disease.

The position is now as follows:—When I left Dilman for Van at the end of October, I saw in the regions round Bashkale another 5,000 or 6,000 Assyrians and a sprinkling of Armenians living in caves of the rocks or in the open, and feeding on raw grains of wheat, which they were picking from the ruined corn fields. On my return in January most of these were in Salmas, and so I think about 30,000 Assyrians and Armenian refugees are now there; that is, after deducting 15 % as loss from disease in the last three months. The Russian and American relief organisations which are working there of course stand in need of more money to carry on their work effectively. In order to save the refugees from starving, doles of money must be given out to them till next harvest at least. I should certainly think that the Americans, whose committee is centred in Tabriz, under the American Consul there, is doing the best work with the means at its disposal. With the Russian organisation there is more delay and greater leakage. Relief is being given impartially by the Americans to Assyrians and Armenians of all denominations. This cannot always be guaranteed for the Russian organisation.

I would therefore strongly appeal for further help for the distressed refugees of this ancient Assyrian Church, together with their brethren of the Armenian Gregorian, Catholic and Protestant faiths, and should suggest that it is sent to the British Consul at Tabriz to distribute with the American missionaries in the form of increased daily allowances for food and clothing.

Tiflis. Feb. 22nd, 1916.

M. PHILIPS PRICE.

The Refugees and Great Britain.

A Striking Tribute of Gratitude.

We have received an Armenian letter addressed to us through a friend in the Caucasus, who wishes his name to be omitted, containing a very striking tribute of gratitude from the refugees to those in Great Britain who have done so much in alleviating their lot. The letter emanates from a body calling themselves *The Committee of Western Armenians*, at Erivan, whose President is Mons. G. Khanjian, a well-known resident of Van, and its Secretary Mons A. Maksabedian. The Committee is comprised mostly of Van Armenians, and under the wing of Bishop Khoren, of Erivan, they have taken over the work of distributing relief and clothing among the poorer classes. As sufferers themselves, the Committee undoubtedly bring to bear on their own townsfolk, of whom about 27,000 are collected in and around Erivan, their intense sympathies, and from personal knowledge of their own people they are administering relief to them in a manner that could not be improved on by complete strangers, even were they Armenians of other districts.

We give below the translation of the letter:—

ERIVAN,

January 17th, 1916.

The Refugee Committee of Western Armenians for Erivan and district takes this early opportunity of expressing its heartfelt thanks, through you, for the great work which is being carried on in Great Britain, for the generous and self-sacrificing contributions sent to us, of which we have read in the papers, and have had further and fuller details from you.

We have never once thought, and never will, that the great people of England, and our countrymen who are living under her flag of liberty, would forget for a moment our unfortunate people here, who, though deprived of their homes and loved ones and living now under a foreign sky, are convinced that one day they will return to their fatherland and to the graves of their dear ones.

To-day we are able to see for ourselves the great work which England has done for us in the past, and the clearing up of past misunderstandings gives us new courage. We rejoice to read the encouraging expressions from the pens of famous Englishmen, whose words echo from the sides of Mount Ararat and thrill our sorrow-stricken hearts. The generous gifts which have been sent to the naked and hungry souls give us fresh encouragement and inspire us with hope for a glorious to-morrow.

The untiring efforts and sympathies of Mr. Gladstone, during the bloody days of 1896, who always stood for the protection of people suffering at the hands of the Red Sultan, are not blotted out of our minds; for are we not the sons of those fathers who were murdered by that very Red Sultan?

Our minds are clear of any doubt that the sons of England, who have been nurtured under the spirit of the great poet Byron—one who always stood, in years past, for the liberation of small nations—would remain indifferent to the savagery and the atrocities which are being committed at the instigation of the German monarch.

It was not possible for us to think that Armenians, who have been fighting for their honour and for their mental and physical existence, would be ignored by the sons of Great Britain; for are they not well known for dispensing justice to the needs of the people living under the British flag, a privilege which we have always so envied?

Is it necessary to say that it was this faith which was the foundation of our perfect assurance in the help of great England, so that the remnant of the Armenians, who have escaped the sword of the enemy, should not remain helpless in their suffering and nakedness? Shall we repeat once more that the realisation of this faith thrills our hearts and fills them with unspeakable joy?

Our beloved fatherland has been stained with blood, and the bodies of our loved ones have been piled up in heaps. But it was with superhuman heroism that the Armenians drove out the Turkish Government from the shores of our beautiful Lake of Vaspouragan, and in their stead there arose the Armenian Government of which we had dreamt for long years. Our brave youths aided the great Russian army and became their advance guard on the Caucasian front. Then we passed through valleys filled with blood in order to seek refuge under the wings of Mount Ararat, so as to save the lives of our remnant; but the plagues and the lack of shelter have swept away many more of our dear ones, who passed away with their eyes steadily fixed on the opposite side of the frontier, even though for years past those very eyes had looked steadfastly towards the Russian side.

The flood of the twentieth century is still rising and overflowing the land, and we still wait at the foot of historic Mount Ararat with anxious hearts. The waters rise and deepen; the Ark of Salvation is not yet in sight; but we hear the voice of Jehovah in the distance—a sure presage that Salvation is approaching.

The Ark must be got ready. The hopeful voices of Lord Bryce, Mr. Aneurin Williams, Miss Robinson, Mr. O'Connor, Colonel Gregory and Mr. Avetoom Hacobian, and of others, give us this assurance, and we believe that this Ark will rest on Mount Ararat, and that the dove of Peace will announce the receding of the waters. When coming out of the Ark we will plant the vine and enjoy the fruit thereof; and after being intoxicated we shall fathom the depths of creation and of hard labour, in order to be able to cultivate the moistened soil and there plant the seed of a new Life and a new Hope.

We request you, Dear Sir, to express our heartfelt obligations and thanks to Great England, who is a sympathiser in our sufferings and a defender of our cause; and also to our countrymen living under her flag—to all we send our salutation.

Finally we would request you to accept the sincere thanks of a nation which has borne the torch of light for centuries in this darkened Orient, whose victim she is to-day.

On behalf of the Refugee Committee of Western Armenians for Erivan and district.

G. KHANJIAN, *President*.

A. MAKSEBEDIAN, *Secretary*.

Local Jottings.

CALCUTTA.

Our correspondent, "An Observer," sends us from Calcutta the following interesting letter:—

CALCUTTA,

February 18th, 1916.

Since my last communication, the Armenian Relief Fund organised in Calcutta has made progress, and it is earnestly hoped that it will further increase, in view of the poignant sufferings and the ghastly plight of the tens of thousands of homeless refugees, the remnants of the hideous massacres, the horrors of which have been unparalleled in the annals of the world. It is satisfactory to record that the members of our community here are deeply conscious of the gravity of the situation, plunged as their brethren are in the dire depths of

poverty and distress, and respond to the demands for charity, the holy virtue encouraged by all religions. But so long as the destitute refugees are away from their hearths and homes it is a duty incumbent on all to render every possible assistance, so that, when peace is declared they may return and rebuild their desolate homes, cultivate their devastated fields, and witness the realisation of their cherished dreams.

At the special request of Mrs. M. Thaddeus, a performance of "Jack Straw" was kindly given by the Howitt-Phillips Company at the Opera House, on the 16th December, in aid of the Armenian Relief Fund. His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Miss Carmichael, graced the occasion by their presence. The audience was composed not only of Armenians, but also of the representatives of the official and social circles of Calcutta. Sixty per cent. of the gross proceeds, amounting to Rs. 1,850, was handed over to the Fund. Mr. J. C. Galstaun was instrumental in no small degree in ensuring the success of the performance by selling most of the tickets and collecting donations.

On the 22nd January a Garden Fete was held at Galstaun Park (kindly lent by Mr. Galstaun), through the praiseworthy initiative of the Armenian Ladies' Benevolent Association. The spacious Park was profusely decorated with flags and greeneries, and a String Band was in attendance, playing choice selections of music. There was a monster Lucky Bag, and the programme consisted of a cabaret entertainment, a concert, raffles, bioscope, and other side-shows. The Armenian community was well represented, and took a hearty interest in the different functions. It is expected that a sum of Rs. 4,000 will be realised, one thousand of which will be taken by the Ladies' Association for its own needs, and the balance allotted to the Relief Fund.

On the 1st of February the Armenian Community of Calcutta sustained an irreparable loss by the death of Mr. A. G. Apcar, at the advanced age of eighty-nine. Deceased always exhibited a national and religious zeal and fervour, and was well known for his many acts of unostentatious generosity, which was shared by all nationalities. Through his munificence the third storey of the Armenian Parsonage in Calcutta was erected, and a new block was added to the Armenian College for extra dormitories and class-rooms. He has left substantial sums for the different religious, national and charitable institutions of Julfa (in Persia) and Calcutta. During his lifetime he contributed in six instalments the handsome donation of Rs. 40,500 to the Armenian Refugee Fund.

His early education he acquired at the Armenian College under his uncle, the late Johannes Avdall, who instilled in him the love of everything Armenian. His father was the younger brother of Arratoon Apcar, the founder of the firm of Apcar & Co. He joined his uncle's

firm at the age of fifteen as an assistant, and, later, he visited Europe. After his father's death in 1847, he was admitted a partner, and on the death of Sir A. A. Apcar a few years ago, he became sole proprietor of the firm, when he took in his eldest son, Mr. J. G. Apcar, who will now in turn succeed him as the sole owner of the firm. He leaves two sons and two daughters, one of whom is Miss Amy Apcar, who has inherited her father's national spirit and sentiments, and is well known for her great interest in Armenian ecclesiastical music.

We give below the 15th List of contributors to the Armenian Relief Fund (Calcutta):—

Amount previously acknowledged, Rs. 61,393 (annas omitted).—Proceeds from a concert organised by Miss Margaret A. Stephen, at the Armenian Club, Calcutta, on Sept. 18th, Rs. 1,278; The Bishop of Calcutta (2nd donation), Rs. 250; Per Rev. V. Nazareth, Madras, Rs. 272; Messrs. Davenport and Co., Rs. 250; Mrs. I. M. Stewart, Simla (3rd donation), Rs. 30; G. V. Apcar, Rs. 10; M. G. Martin, Dinajpur (2nd donation), Rs. 10; St. Stephen's Community, Cambridge Mission, Delhi, Rs. 32; J. C. Hind (2nd monthly donation), Rs. 7; Dr. J. A. Dyer, Giridih, Rs. 30; M. E. Martin, Rs. 25; Messrs. Greenhill and Co., Rs. 50; G. H. Manuel, Chittagong, Rs. 5; M. J. Catchick, Dacca, Rs. 10; Mrs. J. I. Bennett, Rs. 10; Finney, Howrah, Rs. 10; Per Allahabad Bank, Ltd., Nagpur, from the Hon. Treasurer, Central Circle War Relief Fund, Rs. 100; An Armenian Friend, Rs. 50; Miss Mary Apcar, Rs. 2-8. Grand total, Rs. 64,026.

All contributions to the above Fund are being received by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. Stephen, 2, Camac Street, Calcutta.

Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund.

With regard to the actual collections made this month, we confess to a sense of disappointment, though we feel sure that it is due to a temporary lull in the flow of charity. The urgency of the need for assistance is not only restricted to our countrymen in the Caucasus just now, but has spread to those parts of Turkish Armenia which have been liberated by the Russian forces, and a glance at some of the pages in this issue will show that active steps are being taken to repatriate the refugees, to assist them in building up their shattered homes and to sow their spring crops. Relief for this special need is imperative if we are to enable the remnants of the victims of Turkish ferocity to lay again the foundations of their future economic life in

their own fatherland, and to carry on their existence without, we trust, further molestation. Moreover, relief given for this special purpose has an intrinsic value far beyond that doled out for mere subsistence. Necessary though the latter was in the hour of need to keep body and soul together against a better day, the present call will carry with it the assurance that the lives we have helped to save are now prepared to do their part and go forth manfully to rejuvenate the land and to continue the traditions which have ever been the sacred heritage of the Armenian nation. Despair has no part in their nature, and it is for us to see to it that every assistance is extended to them to sustain the vitality that has resisted centuries of oppression, the like of which would have overwhelmed many another nation.

From what we have said it should not be inferred that this special relief would supersede any relief being sent to the Caucasus. On the contrary, it will be many a month before the bulk of the refugees, broken in body and health, will be in a position to be transferred finally to their own villages across the border. We mean that while the refugee camps in the Caucasus need all the help we can send them, this further appeal for the reconstruction of Armenia will call for even greater assistance than we have yet given. It is imperative, therefore, that our efforts to collect funds should be redoubled, and we beseech our readers to help us in this sacred task.

Our statement of account for the past month stands thus:—

Receipts:—	£	s.	d.
"P. Q. R."	7	0	0
Armenian Young Men's Club, Manchester, from sale of booklet of Address delivered before the Club by Lieut.-Col. Gregory	4	17	6
Mr. G. C. Armstrong, collected by the Balkan and Armenian Relief groups of St. George's School, Harpenden (5th donation)	2	11	0
[Mr. M. P. Arakiel, Calcutta, from sale of pictures and postcards	2	0	0
Estate of the late H. F. B. Lynch, from copy-right of pictures	1	1	0
Miss Stocks	0	5	0
Miss Vartouhi, collected at school	0	3	0
Mr. G. C. Armstrong (6th donation)	0	2	6
	18	0	0
Amount previously received	16,038	18	9
Grand total	£16,056	18	9

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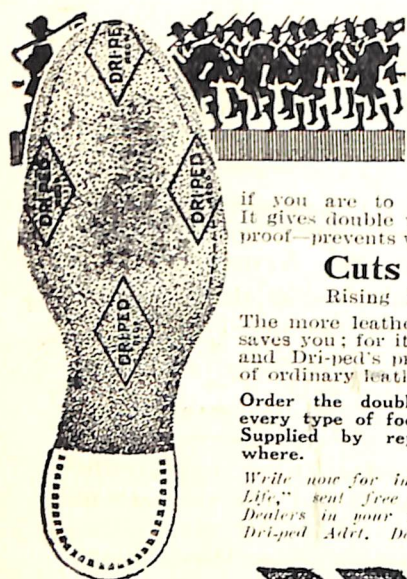
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"	No. 10	1/3 per ounce.	—	—	—	—
Virginia	No. 1	6d.	1/-	—	2/5	4/9
"	No. 3	4d.	8d.	—	1/8	3/3
"	No. 6	—	—	1/5	2/9	5/4
"	No. 7	—	—	1/6	2/11	5/9
"	No. 11	1/- per ounce.	—	—	—	—
Scented	"	1/3	2/9	—	—	—

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Remitted to the Catholicos to March ..	15,610	0	0
Previously remitted direct for special case ..	20	0	0
Balance in Bank ..	426	18	9

Grand total £16,056 18 9

As it has been our practice not to remit less than £500 at a time to the Catholicos, the month of March has passed without any remittance at all.

We have already commented on several occasions on the liberality of our compatriots in Java taking more forms than one where national interests were involved; that liberality has been specially marked where the relief of refugees has been concerned. They have recently outdone even their own efforts by infecting, with the spirit that is within them, the European and Chinese members of their colony as well, with the result that we have been able to forward to the Caucasus during January and February another £4,000 received on a special appeal in that quarter. We will allow Mr. H. P. Hacobian, of Sourabaya, to give his own account of the action taken:—

As readers of *Ararat* are aware, about the beginning of this year, when the first exodus of our poor fellow countrymen from Turkish Armenia commenced, His Holiness the Catholicos made a general and pathetic appeal to Armenians all over the world to raise funds in aid of the thousands of homeless and helpless refugees who had fled to the Caucasus.

A general meeting of the Armenian Community of Sourabaya was convened and a Committee appointed, which collected the handsome sum of £49,280—£4,057 11s. 8d., which amount was duly remitted to His Holiness the Catholicos through the Armenian United Association of London.

Since then the most terrible and wholesale massacre of the Armenians in Turkey has taken place, and in consequence about 300,000 of our compatriots have fled and taken refuge in the Caucasus. Their deplorable condition and cry for help was naturally causing grave anxiety to the writer, as also to all true and devoted Armenians, when on the 15th instant he received the following telegram from Mr. A. P. Hacobian, Vice-President and Hon. Treasurer of the Armenian United Association of London:—

"Refugees Caucasus distress increasing owing cold, threatened famine, situation appalling. Do your utmost, send soonest all money help you can."

On the same day Mr. E. W. Edgar also received the following telegram from Mr. N. P. Hacobian, a member of the said Association :—

“Three hundred thousand fellow countrymen threatened starvation. Misery indescribable. Personally ask you do utmost collect funds, also from Dutch and other friends. Remit soonest possible.”

Both telegrams showed that great and immediate help was needed, and as there was no time left to convene a general meeting of the Armenian Community of this place and have a new Committee appointed, Mr. Edgar and the writer, after consulting with the partners of their respective firms, decided to take the initiative of making a general collection amongst the Armenian, European and Chinese communities of Sourabaya in the names of Messrs. Zorab Mesrope & Co., and Messrs. Edgar & Co.

In order to draw the attention of the public of Sourabaya to the pitiful plight of our countrymen who have taken refuge in the Caucasus, and in the meantime acquaint the public of our intention, the following appeal was published in Dutch on the 18th instant in all the leading papers of this place :—

“As a consequence of the most ruthless massacre to which the Armenians in Turkey have been subjected, about 300,000 of the population—mostly old men, women and children—have taken refuge in the Caucasus, quite destitute, helpless and penniless. Although large sums have been and are being raised by several Committees and individuals all over the world to ameliorate their deplorable condition, the need is so great that the funds so far raised are inadequate to meet their requirements. We have to-day received the following telegrams from Mr. A. P. Hacobian, Vice-President and Hon. Treasurer, and from Mr. N. P. Hacobian, member of the Armenian United Association of London. (See telegrams quoted above.)

“The public of Sourabaya are respectfully requested to extend a helping hand to this ancient Christian people, who, like the poor Belgians, have fallen victims in this terrible war.

“Subscriptions to the Armenian Relief Fund will be thankfully acknowledged by the undersigned,

ZORAB MESROPE & Co.

EDGAR & Co.

Sourabaya, 15th December, 1915.”

It is with great pleasure that the writer has to inform the readers of *Ararat* that the collections have so far been a great success. Over f.20,000 was subscribed on the first day, and the total amount so far subscribed is about f.32,000. The public of Sourabaya have responded liberally to the appeal made by the two firms. It is gratifying and at the same time a great consolation to see that the sympathies of one and all are with our poor and suffering countrymen. The *Soerabaiasch Handelsblad* has always defended our just cause and sympathised with our losses and sufferings. This well-known paper has written some pathetic leading articles regarding the wholesale massacre of our poor countrymen in Turkish Armenia, and has published translations of various articles relating to the same, written by well-known writers in the English papers and magazines. The same paper subscribed f.50 to our fund, and made a strong appeal to the public of Sourabaya to contribute liberally to the “Armenian Refugees’ Relief Fund.”

As the condition of the Refugees in the Caucasus is most appalling on account of the severe winter and scarcity of bread, it was decided to make a remittance as early as possible. We were able to remit £2,000 to London to-day. (See telegram quoted on page 329 of “*Ararat*,” January issue.)

Subjoined will be found the first list of contributors to the “Armenian Refugees’ Relief Fund” for publication in *Ararat*. Other lists will follow.

H. P. HACOBIAN.

Sourabaya, 29th December, 1915.

1ST LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

Zorab Mesrope & Co ..	f.5,000	Seth Zorab ..	350
G. L. Apcar ..	5,000	T. P. Hacobian ..	100
Edgar & Co. ...	5,000	J. C. Jordan & Co. ..	300
Sam. Joakim ..	250	John Campbell ..	1,000
J. S. Arathoon ..	100	Beauclerk & Co. ..	1,000
Zorab Brothers ..	150	J. Kempen ..	25
Mack Paul ..	25	A. C. Ballingal ..	1,000
Galstaun & Co. ..	250	Dordtsche Petroleum	
Galoust Galstaun ..	25	Mpy. ..	500
Thelma Galstaun ..	25	J. F. Vonck ..	100
Rosie John ..	25	John Campbell ..	50
Harold John ..	25	W. Drysdale ..	50
Mrs. P. Hacobian ..	100	G. Bagram ..	150
Ong Thoan Hoei ..	25	Mrs. L. J. Chater ..	50
Heynekamp, Asst. Resd.		J. A. Maingay ..	50
Grise ..	10	Th. De Munnick & Co...	50

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M. David ..	100	M. R., Ponorogo ..	15
Ross Taylor & Co. ..	1,000	F. Paulus ..	50
N. N. ..	250	D. Paulus ..	50
G. W. Tromp De Haas and Co. ..	25	A. E. Leer (Semarang) ..	10
C. Edgar ..	250	C. A. Apear ..	100
J. van Aalst (Resident Sourabaya) ..	100	E. Soesman ..	25
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Dinger ..	5	E. H. Ellis ..	5
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N. N. (E. Zorab, Tegal). ..	f.50	Arsene Zorab ..	35
G. Muller ..	50	C. Joseph ..	25
Soerabaiasch Handels- blad ..	50	K. M. Zorab ..	5
N. N. ..	500	G. C. Arakiel ..	5
Soer. Inc. Spaar & Hulp- bank ..	50	G. P. Louis ..	50
Kantoor, Mr. Loeff ..	100	George Edgar ..	25
Lintner & Co., Ltd. ..	100	M. A. Carapiet ..	5
J. S. ..	25	A. S. Apear ..	50
N. N. ..	50	J. Th. Muller ..	25
N. N. ..	10	R. Wettstein ..	20
Dunlop & Kolff ..	1,000	Nederlandsche Handel Mpy. ..	1,000
C. G. ..	25	Handel Mpy. Kian Gwan, Semarang ..	500
Wellenstein Krause and Co. ..	500	Total ..	f.28,250

The Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund.

So far as possible a copy of the Report for 1915 has been sent to all subscribers. Should this meet the eye of any who have not received a copy will they please apply for it.

At the deputation of representatives of a number of war relief funds who waited on the Home Secretary on March 3rd, with the

Duke of Norfolk at their head, to ask for the registration and licensing of such funds by the Government, the Fund was represented by the Hon. Sec. and the Assistant Hon. Sec.

The total amount of contributions to date is £5,894 11s. 4d.

Amounts received during the month are:—Miss Hall, £100; Bishop of Calcutta, £20; Rt. Hon. Lord Haversham, £10 10s.; Mrs. Grantham, Miss Edith S. Sale, Thos. Harrison, each £10; Miss E. S. Lister (collected), £10 2s.; Sale of rings given by Mrs. Heyland, per N. I. Tiratsoo, £9 10s.; Mrs. Egerton, £5 6s.; Mrs. Waterwork, Mrs. Rait, W. S. Simpson, Rev. Arthur S. B. Freer (a thankoffering), each £5; Mrs. Edwards, Miss Anne Escombe, Miss M. Kingsland, each £4; Miss Fowler, £3 10s.; Edmund Woodall, W. L. Breakell, H. J. Channon, Miss Julia A. Mackey, each £3; Mr. and Mrs. J. Smith, F. L. Wilder, each £2 10s.; Dr. James Little, Mrs. H. B. Harrington, Messrs. Aznavorian & Sivrisarian's Employees and Friends, Mrs. Lindsay Aspland, each £2 2s.; Mrs. Ellingsen, E. A. Wallbank, Mrs. Lucy Mason, R. Slator (collected), each £2; Miss Cornish and Miss E. M. Cornish, Anonymous, Misses Vizard, Mr. and Mrs. Gummer, each £1 10s.; Mrs. Frank Reeves, N. O. L. Macpherson, Mrs. Cudworth, Mrs. Blackett Gill, Miss C. E. Landor, each £1 1s.; Rev. G. E. Asker, H. D. B., L. and M. Orr, per Lady Gwendolen Guinness, W. Ellis, Miss F. Staynes, F. G. Threadgold, Mrs. Chesterman, A. Chester, Mrs. Bromley, Miss Irene Graham (family collection), Miss M. Wynne Thomas, Misses Kinder, Mrs. Green, Anon., Miss E. S. Edwards, Mrs. Rochfort, Mrs. Rose-Johnston, Misses Taylor, Miss Kalitza Hope, Mr. and Mrs. Round, Miss Flint, each £1; Miss E. C. May (collected), 17s. 8d.; F. K. Smith, 15s.; Anon. (Tokio), N. T. Gibbs, Mrs. Knight, Misses E. and B. Kemish, Miss Nora Tennant, A few Subscribers per D. M., James Leader, Misses George, A Friend per Mrs. Cotter, each 10 shillings; Mandory, Peach & Co. per F. G. Threadgold, E. McA. Moir, each 10s. 6d.; and many smaller sums.

The following collections have been sent to the Fund by clergy and others:—Chapel Offertory, S. Lucy's Home, Gloucester, per Sister Superior, £1 0s. 8d.; Burton-upon-Slather Church, per Canon F. A. Jarvis, £2 14s. 6d.; Braithwell Parish Church, per Churchwardens, £1 1s. 6d.; Bramley Chapel at Ease, per Churchwardens, 6s. 6d.; Pitsea Congregational Church, per H. J. Cook, 13s. 4d.; Queens' College Chapel, Cambridge, per Rev. C. T. Wood, £2 14s.; Boy Scouts' Service, Cambridge, per Rev. C. T. Wood, 16s.; Norwood Hill Mission Hall, per W. Dancy, £1; Scottish Teachers' Fund for War Relief, Leith Schools, per H. McCallum, £4 17s.; Empangeni-Umhlatuzi Women's War Relief Association, Zululand, per Mrs. Grantham, £15; Miss Laslett's School, 10s. 6d.; Reader of Glasgow "Evening Times," 5s.; proceeds of whist drive at Astley, per J. Davenport, £7 14s. 6d.

One of our collectors is shortly to join the ranks of our brave defenders. While heartily wishing him God-speed, we trust some one will kindly offer to fill his place. That physical infirmity need be no hindrance is proved by the fact that three of the most successful, untiring workers for the Fund are complete invalids; two are confined to their couches, yet they are doing splendid relief work for other societies besides ours.

Mr. Safrastian has kindly sent us a complete list of the distressing cases he was able to relieve with the £200 which he received through the Mayor of Tiflis from our Fund.

It is hoped as soon as possible to send a consignment of drugs to Tiflis.

Collections of garments have been received from Mrs. T. R. Marshall, Miss H. Packer (New Zealand), Mrs. Southern, Mrs. W. A. Chaplin, Mrs. Hill, Miss E. Cooper and Working Girls' Club, Mrs. Edwards, Miss M. A. Briggs, Miss A. Henry, Miss E. Styles, Mrs. Reavell, Miss Emily Ryley, Miss E. M. Hebden, Miss Harrison, Miss Arthur, Miss Smith, and anonymous donors. New woollen undergarments for men, women or children will be thankfully received and acknowledged. They should be sent to the Hon. Secretary by April 8th. Will the sender of any *very large* bale kindly write beforehand that arrangements may be made for it. Two small packages are easier to deal with than one large one.

All hearts will echo the deep thankfulness expressed by so many contributors in their letters that Armenia's terrible long night of agony is at last ending, and that apparently the dawn of a happier era is near at hand.

Donations for the Fund and parcels of clothing should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Miss E. J. Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W. Cheques may be made payable to the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, and crossed London & South Western Bank, Holland Park Branch.

EMILY J. ROBINSON.

Announcements.

ARMENIAN YOUNG MEN'S CLUB, MANCHESTER.

The meetings of this Society, which have continued during the Winter Session 1915-1916 at West Didsbury Public Hall, Manchester, are now drawing to a close, and the fixtures for April, the final month, are thus notified in the Syllabus:—

APRIL 9—Sunday, 3.30 p.m. Debate.

M. Yegwartian, Esq., Vs.
B. Jenazian, Esq.

APRIL 23—Sunday, 3.30 p.m. Debate.

A. E. Manissadjian, Esq., Vs.
M. Markarian, Esq.

APRIL 30—Sunday, 3.0 p.m. Members' Meeting.

End of Winter Session to be followed by a Picnic in the Summer, if circumstances permit.

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The Friend of Armenia—Published quarterly. Annual subscription, 1s. 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

The Truth about Armenia. by EMILY J. ROBINSON. 1d., by post 1½d. One doz. copies, 1s., or 7/6 for 100 copies, post free. Apply to Miss Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W.

Map of Turkish Armenia.—Enlarged edition of the Map appearing in this periodical, on cloth to fold, in cover, 1s. per copy. Apply to Assistant Secretary, The Armenian United Association, 47a, Redcliffe Square, London, S.W.

The Armenian Church, by ARCHDEACON DOWLING, with an introduction by the late BISHOP OF SALISBURY. Published by the S.P.C.K., Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C. (Illustrated), Price 3/6.

The Church of Armenia—Her History, Doctrine, Rule, Discipline, Liturgy, Literature, and Existing Condition, by Mgr. Malachia Ormanian, translated by G. Marcar Gregory, V.D., 5s. net (postage 4d.). Apply to the translator, 36, Gunterstone Road, West Kensington, London, W.

Raffi's Works.—Samuel, 8s.; Davit Beg, 8s.; Kaitzer I and II, 12s.; Khent, Djaleddin, 5s.; Khamsai Meliks, 5s.; Persia, 5s.; Khachakogh, 5s.; Salbi, 8s.; Tachkahajk, 3s.; Zahrumar, 5s. Apply Mrs. Raffi, 32, Richmond Gardens, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

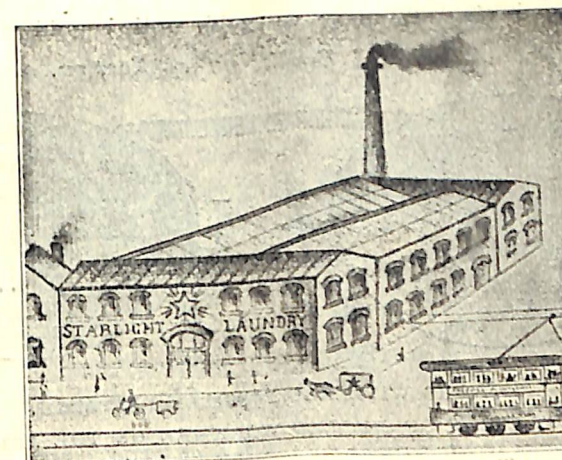
The People of Armenia.—A lecture delivered in Paris by Archag Tchobanian, translated into English by G. Marcar Gregory. Published by J. M. Dent & Sons, Ltd., London, 1s. 6d. net. Now ready. Copies in any number can also be had through the Assistant Secretary, Armenian United Association, 47a, Redcliffe Square, London, S.W.

Travel and Politics in Armenia.—By NOEL BUXTON, M.P., and the Rev. HAROLD BUXTON. With an Introduction by VISCOUNT BRYCE, and a Contribution on ARMENIAN HISTORY AND CULTURE, by ARAM RAFFI. (Smith, Elder.) 5s. net.

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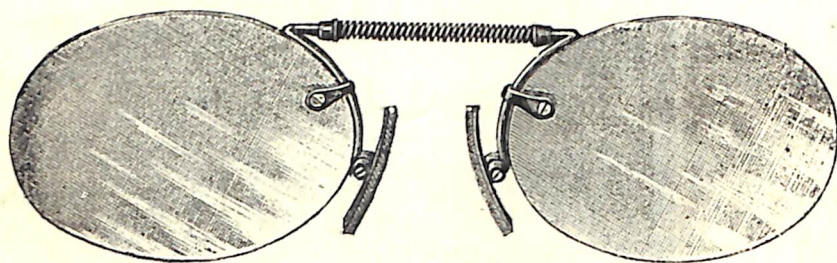
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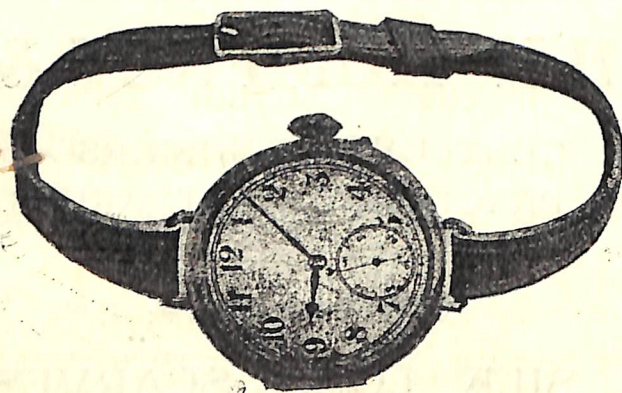
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A. P. HACOBIAN, Vice-President and Hon. Treasurer.

M. K. GUDENIAN, M.D., Hon. Sec.

S. P. STEPHENS.

D. ARSLANIAN.

H. N. MOSDITCHIAN.

N. P. HACOBIAN, Hon. Asst. Treas.

JAMES A. MALCOLM.

This Association has been founded with the double object of (1) drawing together all Armenians in the British capital, bringing them into touch with the British public, and thus establishing a closer sympathy between the two nations; and (2) focussing in the centre of the civilised world the many questions, both social and national, which affect Armenia and the Armenians.

With the above objects in view, the Association is directing its energies to—

- (1) The establishment of a permanent habitation in London, which will embrace a hall for meetings, a reading-room and a library.
- (2) The organisation of social and literary gatherings.
- (3) The relief and education of Armenian orphans rendered destitute through chronic misrule in Armenia.
- (4) Watching the trend of political affairs affecting Armenia, and doing the utmost by pacific means towards the amelioration of the country and the people through (a) a Standing Committee, and by (b) the publication of literature.
- (5) The gradual raising of a fund for the establishment of an Armenian Church in London.

Membership is open to Armenians of both sexes.

Subscription:—Annual, 10/-; entrance fee, 5/-. Life Members, 5 guineas.

Sympathisers and friends of other nationalities are eligible for election as Hon. Members, but they have no voice in the management, and pay no subscriptions.

It will be evident that the above nominal subscription is just sufficient for the bare social functions of the Association. The more important functions are dependent for their success on the liberality of sympathisers, and donations are earnestly requested for the above national objects from those who are in a position to contribute. The response since the reorganisation of the Association has been very encouraging, but much more is needed to place the Association on a secure basis for prosecuting the work outlined above.

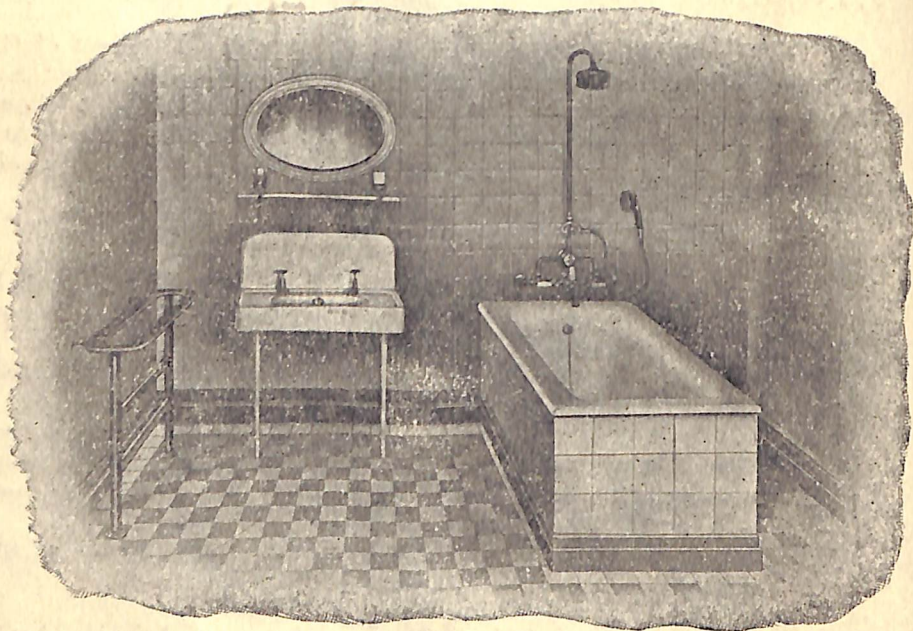
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